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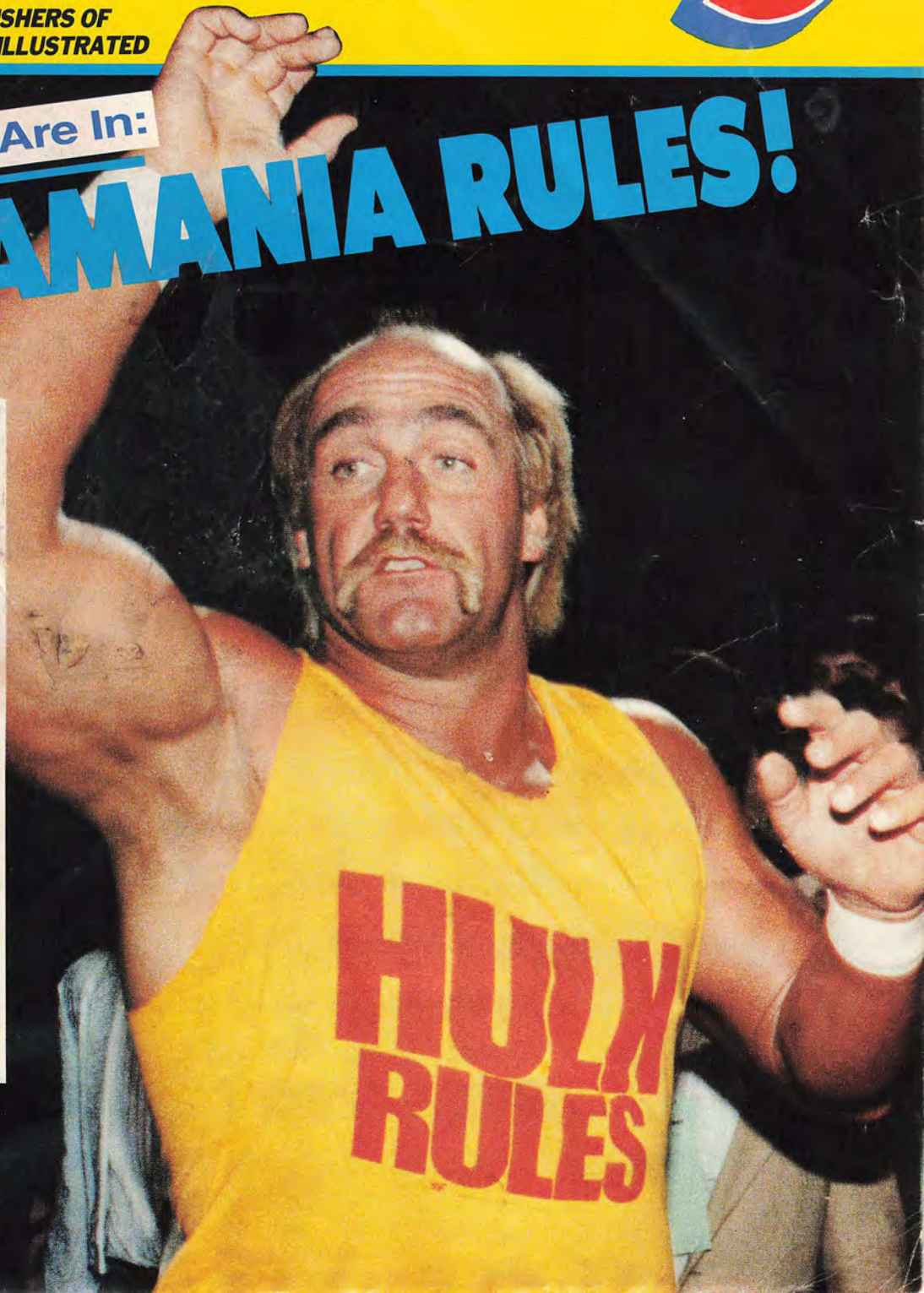
# Wrestling

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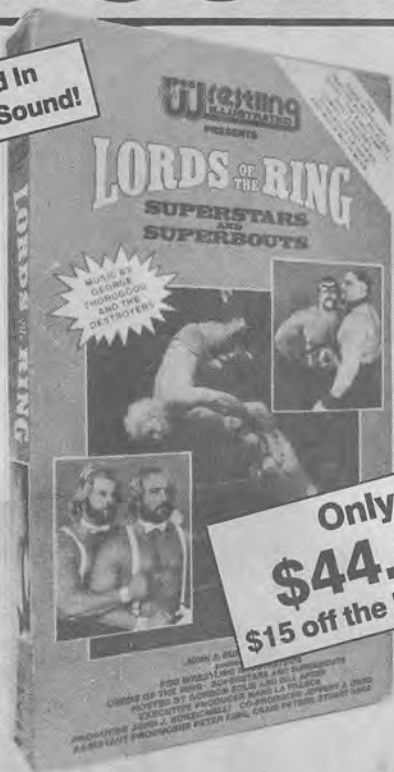
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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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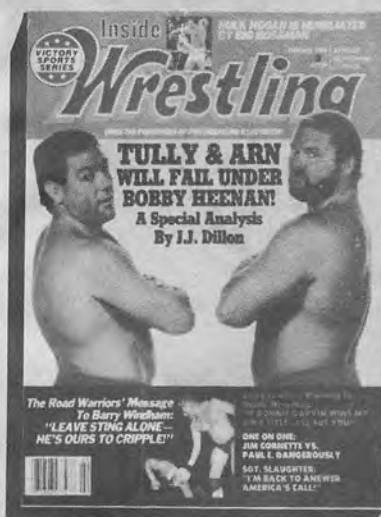


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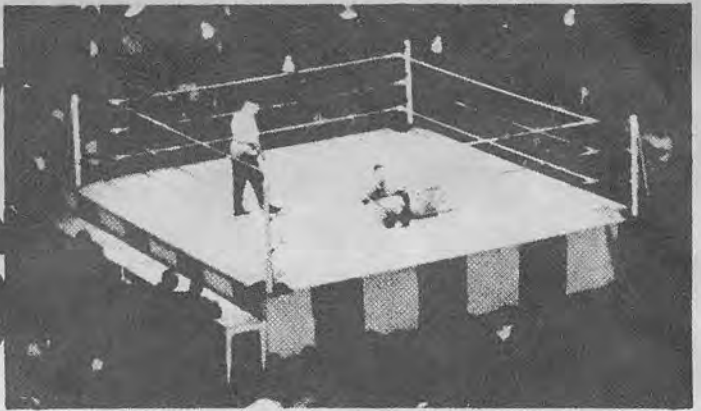
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# SINCERELY YOURS

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## A PAGE OUT OF HISTORY

The hell with *Inside Wrestling* and its vastly inferior group of editors for not including me, the great "Diamond" Dallas Page, in that piece of yellow journalism by Bill Apter in the June 1989 issue ("Presenting The PWF: The Rebirth Of Florida Wrestling"). If Florida wrestling is gonna be reborn, I'll be the reason for its rebirth.



"Diamond" Dallas Page (with two of his "diamond dolls") wrote to complain that we didn't include him in a feature on Florida wrestling.

Since you people have chosen to ignore me, I'll have to inform your stupid readers myself of my accomplishments since coming to the PWF. I am the manager and leader of Big Steel Man, formerly known as U.S. Steel, and the great South African Col. DeBeers. Steel is simply the most dan-

gerous, most awesomely built wrestler in the world, a man who would've beaten Dusty Rhodes for the PWF title if not for some bad luck. Steel and I have two goals: run Rhodes and Dick Slater out of Florida.

I have also graced the airwaves of Florida with my voice. It is *my* commentary that gives the viewers a fighting chance of figuring out what's going on. Believe me, they'd have no clue by listening to Gordon Solie.

If all this isn't enough, I also continue to manage Bad Company, the past and future AWA World champions. All this and good looks, too. I'm sure that while your readers might not know about what I'm doing in Florida, all of the young women do.

"DIAMOND" DALLAS PAGE  
Dallas

## PAYBACK TIME

Congratulations on your great coverage of Rick Steamboat's tremendous victory over Ric Flair ("Finally, Fortune Favors The Challenger: Rick Steamboat Wins Ric Flair's NWA Belt!" June 1989). And congratulations to "The Dragon" for finally putting an end to the Flair myth.

For years, Flair has saved his title by getting disqualified, paying off the refs, or depending upon one of The Four Horsemen for outside interference, but finally, it was payback time. I love the way Flair complained about the officiating. Well, Ric, if not for those same officials, you would've lost that belt long ago—if you would've won it at all.

You're absolutely right: On February 20, Flair ran out of luck and it was



Rick Steamboat rolls up Ric Flair for the pin. Reader Leo Schwartz is pleased that Flair's luck finally ran out at the Chi-Town Rumble.



a moment to be cherished. After all, this Flair-Steamboat war has been going on for a long time, and even though he dominated almost every one of their matches, Steamboat always came out on the short end. Well, Ric, it's over. You'll get your rematches because Steamboat is a sportsman, but it's time for you to hang up the tights.

LEO SCHWARTZ  
Skokie, IL

### "BRAIN" OVER BRAWN

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan may not be so popular with most wrestling fans, but his patience and endurance in the WWF after years without a title in his stable has paid off. At WrestleMania V, Rick Rude became Heenan's first titleholder by winning the Intercontinental belt from a devastated Ultimate Warrior. "Ravishing" Rick actually *stole* the title, thanks totally to Heenan's outside interference.

Heenan remained very patient throughout the match, even though Rude took a serious beating from the many slams and clotheslines administered by the Warrior. The Warrior even powered out of Rude's finishing hold, the "Rude Awakening," as the match drew to a close. But the Warrior couldn't power out of a double-team as Heenan snatched the Warrior's leg out from under him just as he was about to suplex Rude back into the ring.

As Heenan held on to Warrior's leg, carefully hidden from the referee, Rude fell on the Warrior and held him down for the pin. Whether or not you like Heenan, he must be commended for a job well done. His brains outsmarted the Warrior's brawn, and now he's got the gold around "Ravishing" Rick Rude's waist.

LENNY TRIPODI  
Kenilworth, NJ

### AWA RAW DEAL

It was my understanding that when Jerry Lawler met Kerry Von Erich in SuperClash III, it was to unify the AWA World and WCCW titles. It was also my understanding that these belts would no longer exist and that the uni-



With Bobby Heenan's help, Rick Rude pins The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania V. Reader Lenny Tripodi commends "The Brain" for outsmarting the Warrior.

fied belt would be recognized by both organizations.

If this is so, then how in the world can the AWA strip Mr. Lawler of a belt that no longer exists? Or was SuperClash III just a scam to suck money out of the public for another pay-per-view ripoff?

Then, to make matters worse, your publication comes out and says that you won't recognize Jerry as the unified champion, but only as WCCW champ. I feel that Lawler is being handed a bad deal by both your magazine and a reneging AWA.

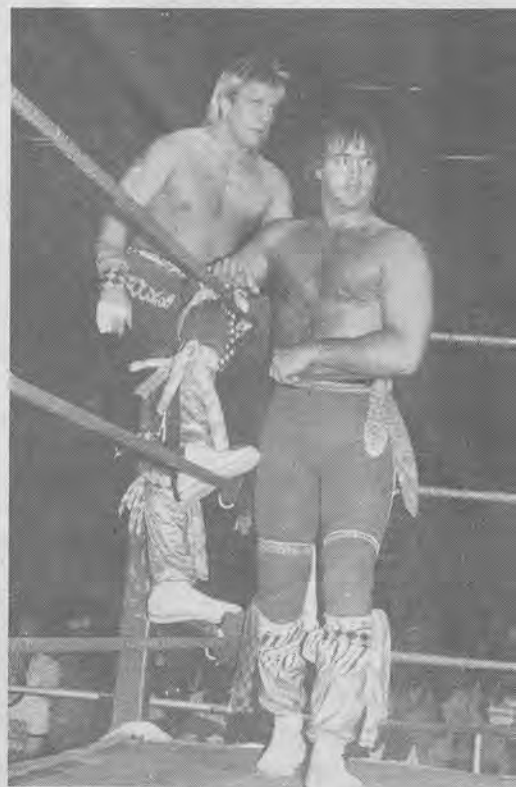
LEON TSILIS  
Washington, DC

### REBUTTAL REBUTTAL

I am writing in response to Mike Gotschall and Jess McGrath's letters in your June 1989 issue ("R 'n' R Rebuttals"), which were in response to Diane Martin's letter ("Rock 'n' Roll Lives") in the April issue.

I'd like to say that even though Rick Morton and Robert Gibson aren't together right now, they'll always be together in their souls and in our hearts. When we say that rock 'n' roll will never die, we mean *never*. You can be sure that Ricky and Robert will get back together real soon so we fans can see their unique brand of great wrestling.

JENNIFER HOBBS  
Hilton Head, SC



Though The Rock 'n' Roll Express has undergone a lot of turmoil over the past year, reader Jennifer Hobbs still considers them her favorite team.

### ROSENBAUM: BACKSTABBER

I'm writing in regards to "Behind The Dressing Room Door" by David Rosenbaum in the May 1989 issue of your fine publication. It's fair to say that *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications are anti-Hulk Hogan (and anti-WWF). That comes as no shock to anyone. But when I read this article,

(Continued on page 48)

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

It's a good thing for Eddie Ellner that Dusty Rhodes is a gentleman. If it were me, and Ellner was trying to ruin my career, I probably would have taken a pop at him by now.

If you're not familiar with what I am talking about, check out Ellner's column, "The Insider," on page 16. That's just one example of the literary attacks Ellner has unleashed at Rhodes over the past five years or so. Ellner, in my mind, is a superb journalist. No, I don't agree with a lot of his views, but I realize that he represents a large segment of our readership and must be heard. When it comes to Rhodes, however, he not very professional.

He hates Rhodes because he hates the way Rhodes looks. It's that simple. Ellner is a fitness fanatic. He works out regularly and eats the right foods. He enters triathalons, plays world-class racquetball, and can play hoops for hours without taking a breather. To him, professional athletes have to look like professional athletes to be respectable.

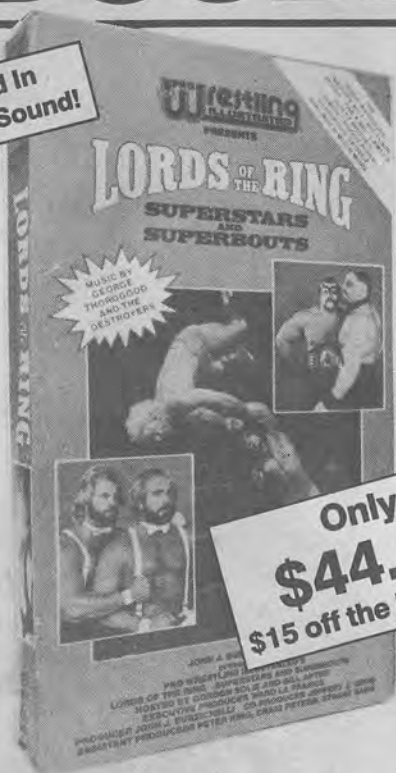
But that's just nonsense. The idea of athletic competition is to win. Nothing in the wrestling rulebook says that the competitors must all have the body of Lex Luger. When Dusty Rhodes steps into the ring, it's him against his opponent. If he loses because of his physique, then get on his case. But if he wins—and he's been one of the sport's biggest winners for years—give him the respect he deserves.

I will not try to stifle Ellner's views (though I wouldn't be able to sleep at night if we didn't have a disclaimer preceding his column). I simply feel he should be more careful about his criticism. Dusty Rhodes has been around for a long time and will be around for a long time to come. When Ellner practices shoddy journalism, it is really himself that he hurts most.



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

IT WAS A vacation—not a *work-*  
*ing* vacation, just a vacation—  
and I had no intention of even  
*thinking* about wrestling. But as  
my girlfriend and I crossed the  
street and headed toward the east  
train station in Budapest, Hunga-  
ry, everything changed.

Otto Wanz was in Budapest.

There, right on a wall behind  
three young gypsies trying to rip  
off unsuspecting tourists, was a  
poster, and it caught my eye be-  
cause of the photo of Wanz. The  
former AWA World champion was  
in Budapest to take on an English  
wrestler I had never heard of, and  
the poster promoted an upcoming  
mixed card that included wres-  
tling, boxing, and kick boxing.

Unfortunately, the card was  
scheduled for the following eve-  
ning, and we were due back in  
Vienna, Austria, that afternoon.  
But I figured I had a scoop (For-  
mer AWA World Champ Wrestles  
Behind The Iron Curtain!), so I  
hailed the first cab and jumped  
right in.

"Driver, take me to the hotel of  
Otto Wanz," I said.

He looked at me with a blank  
stare, then mumbled something in  
Hungarian that I understood just  
as well as he understood me.

"Wanz," I repeated. "You  
know, wrestler? AWA World  
champion?"

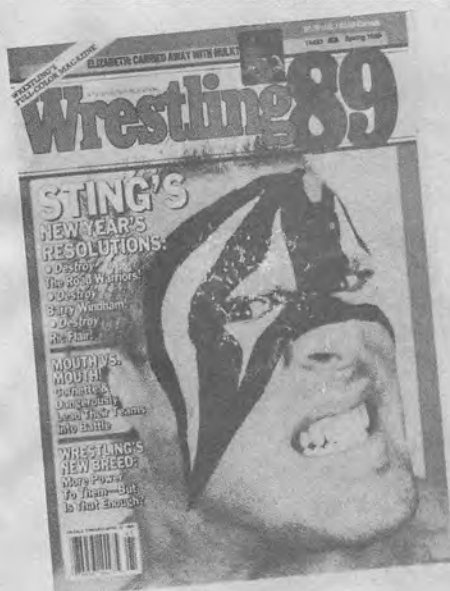
Another blank stare. I realized  
we had a major communication  
gap on our hands (after a few  
days in Hungary, one starts to  
think "Iron Curtain" refers to the  
wall of communication standing  
between Americans and the na-  
tives). I took out my guide book,  
pointed to the name of the most  
exclusive hotel in town (which  
turned out to be the Hilton), and  
had him drive me there. I was

(Continued on page 54)



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I RECENTLY HAD the rare privilege of watching a tape of the February 20 Chi-Town Rumble '89 main event with the man who won that match—and the NWA World title—Rick Steamboat.

What prompted me to travel to Steamboat's home in Charlotte, North Carolina, and view the match again was the fact that it was Teddy Long who made the three-count that awarded Steamboat the belt. Yes, *that* Teddy Long. The Teddy Long who made perhaps the fastest three-count in the sport's history, the one who ripped the NWA World tag team title from the muscled grip of the mighty Road Warriors.

In light of that incident, and several more like it (though these other incidents haven't cost anyone their belts . . . yet), I wanted to get Steamboat's comments on the officiating of the February 20 bout. But I wanted to get those comments in person. I wanted to see the expressions on Steamboat's face as he relived what many consider to be the greatest match of his career.



**Rick Steamboat**

The early minutes of the bout were a pleasure for Steamboat to watch. He studied the action with an analytical eye, occasionally pausing the tape and rewinding a bit to point out a strategic detail or two.

"Look here," he said at one point, "I could have moved in with an abdominal stretch right here. Man, that opening is so wide you could drive a truck through it! Unbelievable how I missed that one."

Steamboat winced as, on the television screen, Flair pelted him in the chest and throat with thundering chops. He inched closer to the edge of his seat as he watched himself return the chops in kind, backing Flair into the corner of the ring.

At one point in the match, Flair caught Steamboat with a backdrop ("I left myself wide open for it; bad form") and scored a two-count from referee Tommy Young. Flair jumped to his feet and pushed Young for not counting fast enough. Young pushed back.

Steamboat chuckled.

"It's funny," he said, "how so many people think Flair pays Young off. That was always the claim when Flair was champion and he'd come out of a big match with his title intact. Everybody would cry foul. But look, Young is a good referee. He doesn't put up with anything from anyone, *including* Flair, and I think that bit of tape shows it pretty clearly."

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

Steamboat got very quiet as the end of the match approached.

On the screen, Steamboat climbed to the top rope for a flying bodypress. He sailed through the air and collided with Flair and Young. Steamboat's instincts took over as he went for the pin, but Young was knocked out. Too bad; Flair's shoulders were down for a full seven-count. When Steamboat turned to revive Young, Flair moved in and rolled him up for the pin, but

Young was still knocked out. Flair gained a six-count. Meanwhile, Teddy Long had appeared at ringside and was vainly trying to revive Young.

The next few seconds of tape seemed to last hours, and Steamboat's concentration on the events unfolding on the television screen was fascinating in its intensity.

Flair throws Steamboat out of the ring. Long is still trying to revive Young. Steamboat scrambles to the top rope. Flying bodypress. Miss. Flair is jubilant. Flair attempts a figure-four leglock. Fails. Steamboat rolls Flair to the mat with a cradle. Shoulders down. Long is in the ring. Three-count.

New champion.

The cheers emanating from the television speaker couldn't do justice to the deafening roar of the crowd that night in Chicago, but it didn't matter. Steamboat, watching the tape, wasn't reacting to them. Deep in thought, he reached over to the remote control and stopped the tape. The screen went blank. The room was silent.

Steamboat rubbed his chin, as if coaxing the emotions he was feeling to transform themselves into words so they could be expressed and vented. When he finally spoke, it was in a slow and measured voice.

"I'm glad you did this," he said to me. "I'm glad we watched this tape. I've been avoiding it for the last couple of weeks."

Why?

"Well, I was afraid that if I went back and watched the end of the match, I'd see something about Long's three-count that wasn't valid. That it was too fast, maybe, or something like that. Maybe something else I never noticed before. I mean, the kinds of things Long is doing these days, you really have to wonder about his officiating all down the line."

The three-count *was* valid however, and it was hardly a fast one. At the time of the Chi-Town Rumble, Long had yet to be warped by Kevin Sullivan and The Varsity Club. And lest anyone forget, Tommy Young joined Long in the ring to doubly validate Steamboat's pinfall.

Visibly relieved, Steamboat sat back in his chair and relaxed. He reached for the remote control and smiled.

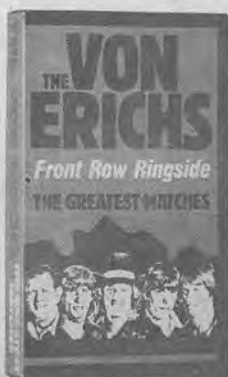
"What do you say, Craig, want to watch it again?" □





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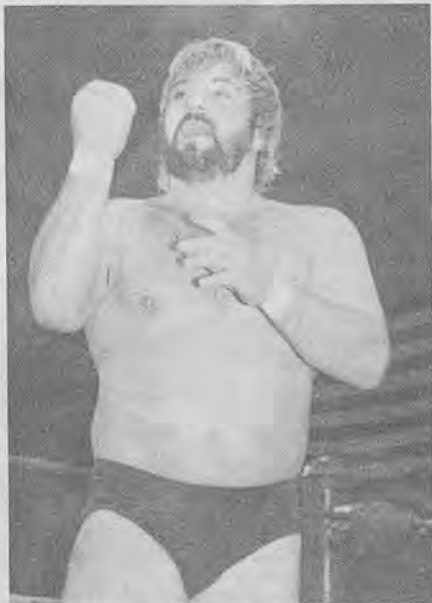
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# NAMES MAKING

**T**EXAS CHAMPION **Eric Embry** continues to be the focal point of controversy in the World Class area. After finally being reinstated by World class matchmaker **Frank Dusek**, Embry defeated **Gary Young**, **Cactus Jack**, and **Botswana Beast**, all members of **Gen. Skandor Akbar's** Devastation Inc., in loser-leaves-WCCW bouts. It looked like Embry had succeeded against Akbar where so many others had failed—but the manager from the Middle East has used his wealth to gain the upper hand once again.



**ERIC EMBRY**

On April 21 in Dallas, Embry took on Akbar in another loser-leaves-WCCW match, this time in a steel cage with Dusek serving as referee. Unbeknownst to everyone but Akbar, Cactus Jack and a newcomer called **The Masked Zodiac** hid under the ring while the cage was being assembled. After a few minutes of action, Zodiac and Jack ran into the ring and savaged Dusek and Embry.

The next day, Dusek announced that Akbar was suspended *for life* from



**GEN. SKANDOR AKBAR**

World Class because of the attack, but the suspension would not hold. An hour earlier, the World Class board of directors had suspended Dusek for lifting Embry's original suspension, which had begun in February when Embry lost a loser-leaves-WCCW bout to Young. At press time, Dusek, Embry, and **Percy Pringle**, who launched a mail-in petition campaign on Embry's behalf, were being investigated by the board.

"After 19,000 people wrote in to say they wanted Eric back in World Class, I felt I had no other choice," said an angry Dusek. "This suspension is obviously the work of Akbar's team of lawyers. The rulebreakers continue to get away with whatever they feel like doing, and I'm sick and tired of it."

Trouble continues to swirl around several referees. **Teddy Long**, the official whom many consider to be the reason why **The Road Warriors** lost the NWA World tag team title to **Steve Williams** and **Mike Rotundo**, has been banned from officiating championship matches. This decision was announced after Long ignored blatant outside interference during a tag team match pitting **The Iron Sheik** and **Butch Reed** against U.S. tag

champions **Eddie Gilbert** and **Rick Steiner**.

"In several matches, Long has made decisions that are questionable, to say the least," said NWA executive **Jim Herd**. "He counted a pinfall victory after seeing Reed hit Gilbert over the head with a flagstaff handed to him by **Rip Morgan**. At this point, it would be premature to ban Long altogether, but it's obvious that we have to take a close look into his recent conduct."

While Long has been censured, another infamous name has been reinstated. **Danny Davis**, who was barred from refereeing in the WWF in 1987, is now being allowed to officiate a limited number of matches. This has to be one of the most shocking decisions WWF President **Jack Tunney** has ever made, as Davis has been wrestling as a rulebreaker under the management of **Jimmy Hart** since his suspension. Also, former NWA World



**DANNY DAVIS**



# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...



MIL MASCARAS

champion **Ronnie Garvin** is now a WWF referee since losing a retirement match to **Greg Valentine**.

Legendary aerial wrestler **Mil Mascaras**, looking as dominant as ever, has returned to the United States. He's made several appearances in the World Class area . . . Japanese legend **Jumbo Tsuruta** is now a triple champion! When Tsuruta defeated **Stan Hansen** in Tokyo on April 18, he won Hansen's PWF and United National titles; he had already held the All-Japan International belt . . . **Nick Bockwinkel** has returned to the sport. The former AWA World champion is working as a broadcaster periodically for Windy City Wrestling.

The tension between **Bad Company** and manager "**Diamond**" **Dallas Page** continues to escalate. According to reports, **Pat Tanaka** and **Paul Diamond** have been talking with Stampede and CWA promoters about wrestling there—without Page!

"I don't know what's wrong with those dudes," said Page, who admits things haven't been the same since

**Ken Patera** and **Brad Rheingans** defeated his team for the AWA World tag team title on March 25 in Rochester, Minnesota. "They should know that I made them what they are today. It doesn't make sense for them to leave me now, and they'll be sorry if they do, daddy!"

In other AWA news, **Joe Blanchard**, a former Texas champion and the father of WWF star **Tully Blanchard**, is being touted as the most likely successor to the retired **Stanley Blackburn** as new AWA president. Former AWA World champion **Verne Gagne** thinks that Blanchard is a perfect choice. "There's never been anyone with more integrity than Joe," said Gagne. "He was a tough wrestler, but a fair man, and that's exactly what the AWA needs."



CARL STYLES

**The Grappler** regained the Pacific Northwest championship from **Carl Styles**, but the masked wrestler said he isn't finished with Styles—now he's threatening to cripple him for life . . . **Harley Race** has challenged **Dusty Rhodes** for the PWF title. It would be great to see those two rivals going at it again . . . A new organization, the International Wrestling Alliance, is now



MAX PAIN

holding cards throughout Tennessee and surrounding areas. **Max Pain**, formerly of the CWA, is the first IWA superheavyweight champion.

After holding the title for more than a year, **Abdullah the Butcher** lost the WWC North American championship to **Invader I** on April 15 in San Juan. Invader is also half of the new WWC tag team champions along with **Carlos Colon**. The popular duo captured the belts by forfeit when **Jason the Terrible** and **Steve Strong** failed to show up for an April 8 match in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

**Barry Windham** has left the NWA! Windham, who is still on the mend from the hand injury suffered in his February 20 U.S. title loss to **Lex Luger**, decided to leave after contract negotiations stalled. However, at press time, NWA officials were hopeful that a new pact could be hammered out.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

**B**OASTING MATT BROCK'S "Plain Speaking," "On The Road" with Craig Peters, "On Assignment" with the intrepid Liz Hunter, and, of course, the peerless column currently seizing your attention, *Inside Wrestling* offers readers a lineup hard to challenge. Since things are fine over here, "The Insider," as it does from time to time, thought it would check on the rest of the family to see how they're doing.

We know *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, this magazine's most cherished sister publication, to be the leading example of wrestling journalism in the publishing industry. Drop by any newsstand in the country and you'll see racks of imitators, but none that rival *PWI*'s sheer artistry of design, editorial scope (featuring the brilliant "Off The Top Rope"), and vivid photography. To celebrate its 10th anniversary, a milestone of no small consideration, *PWI* spared no expense to assemble a collection of wrestling memorabilia from the sport's greats. The merchandise, part of a month-long celebration, will be given away absolutely free to over 100 lucky fans cho-

sen by random drawing.

At press time, the list included: two pair of Bob Backlund workout shorts; the trunks Magnum T.A. wore when he defeated Tully Blanchard in their infamous "I Quit" match at Starrcade '85; the trunks Bruno Sammartino wore the night he defeated Stan Stasiak to begin his second reign as WWF champion; a genuine Mr. Wrestling II mask and robe; Randy Savage's 1988 Wrestler of the Year plaque; Jim Cornette's slightly bent tennis racket; a pair of custom-designed Buddy Rogers boots made in 1944; a lock of Ric Flair's hair; the Mexican heavyweight championship belt belonging to Lou Thesz (the last belt the great champion ever wore); a Wahoo McDaniel head-dress; and the vest, shirt, and bandanas belonging to those fashion trendsetters, The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

Quite a collection of, er, *stuff*, don't you think? Of course, this is just one more editorial decision made without consulting yours truly. Had the editors asked my advice about the giveaway, my list of prizes would certainly have been more enticing, and added to the contest's lustre. Who needs a pair of Bob Backlund wrestling trunks? Better off going to K-Mart; at least those won't stink.

Just so wrestling fans know what might have been available were I running the show, here is the list of prizes I would have ob-

*(Continued on page 58)*



Bill Apter snips a lock of Ric Flair's hair, one of the many prizes in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*'s 10th anniversary contest. Eddie Ellner has his own prize ideas.



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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

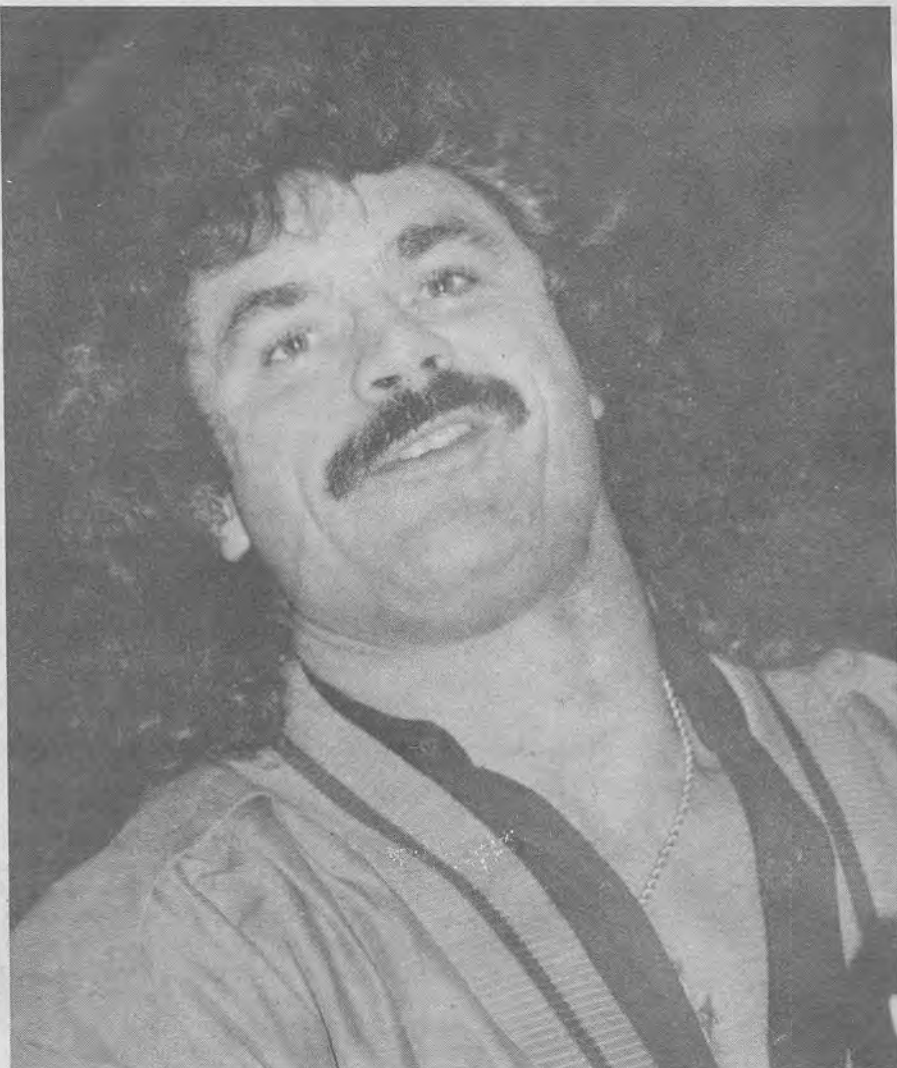
**F**ANS—AND THERE are millions of them—who regard the WWF as the premier wrestling federation in the country naturally confer upon the WWF champion the title of “World’s Greatest Wrestler.” In choosing wrestler number two, these same fans are likely to dismiss the NWA completely, and instinctively tab the WWF’s Intercontinental champion.

Which means, of course, that in the minds of many, Rick Rude is currently the second-greatest wrestler in the world. That’s right, Rick Rude.

Excuse me while I catch my breath. Much like correspondents for *People* or *The National Enquirer* are assigned to shadow Linda Evans or Cher in the hopes of uncovering some wild scandal, so I once was given over to Rick Rude.

I can recall the conversation as if it happened yesterday. “We think this rookie is going to amount to something, Liz,” then-Editor-in-Chief Peter King told me. “I want you to follow him on the road. See what he’s made of. Stick to him like glue.”

Oh, the irony of Peter’s words. For close to a year, I followed Rude from arena to arena. I watched women of every shape, size, color, and race succumb to his unearthly masculine charms. I viewed his professional indifference with a detachment of my own. Here was a man skilled in all areas of the mat, yet he treated his potential like something cheap and tawdry and not to be taken seriously. Our friendship



Liz Hunter recalls a time when a frustrated Rick Rude was seriously thinking of leaving the sport. Hunter had a lot to do with talking him out of it, but today “The Ravishing One” won’t even acknowledge her existence.

grew despite his insistence to conquer me romantically, something I resisted despite its obvious appeal.

“Why don’t you train as hard as you play?” I’d ask, frustrated at watching such incalculable talent waste away in bars and night clubs. At such moments Rude would pad away silently, as if his nocturnal wanderings were be-

yond his ability to control.

It was after his tenure as World Class champion that I could detect subtle differences in his character. His brash, boastful disposition gave way to a more serious outlook. He still partied, and still broke hearts, but his wild nightlife was scaled down a bit. I found him in a gym more often, expand-

(Continued on page 60)



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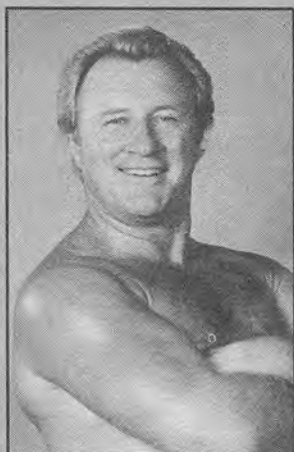
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## NICK BOCKWINKEL

The legendary four-time AWA World champion and two-time AWA tag champ (with Ray Stevens) recently ended a lengthy stint as a high-ranking WWF official. Long known as one of the sport's most outspoken

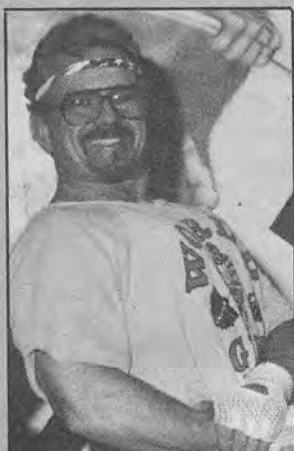
men, Bockwinkel has been negotiating with Windy City Wrestling and other independent organizations for a role as a guest TV broadcaster and match analyst. "My love for this great sport will never die," he said.



## J.J. DILLON

The leader of The Four Horsemen, arguably the most successful rulebreaking organization in NWA history, ended his managerial career after being fired by Ric Flair in January. Dillon decided to leave the NWA, and is currently

serving as an adviser in the WWF. The veteran administrator now lends his years of expertise to matchmaking and other high-level decision-making. He refuses to say if he will return to managing.



## LES THATCHER

A former wrestler, promoter, and broadcaster, Thatcher did it all during his grappling career. The popular scientific star, who retired a few years ago because of the constant travel a pro wrestler must endure, is currently the manager of Royal Fitness Center in Milford, Ohio.

"When I traveled so much I didn't get to pursue my other loves," said Thatcher, who intends to again compete in bodybuilding contests after a long hiatus.



## NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

After teaming with Boris Zukhov for more than a year, the massive 280-pound Volkoff recently left Slick and his partner and is now competing in Japan and several independent federations. The former WWF

World tag team champion (with The Iron Sheik) is now concentrating solely on singles matches. "No more does Volkoff wrestle in tag teams," said the 6'7" Russian giant. "Volkoff now out to win major singles belt."

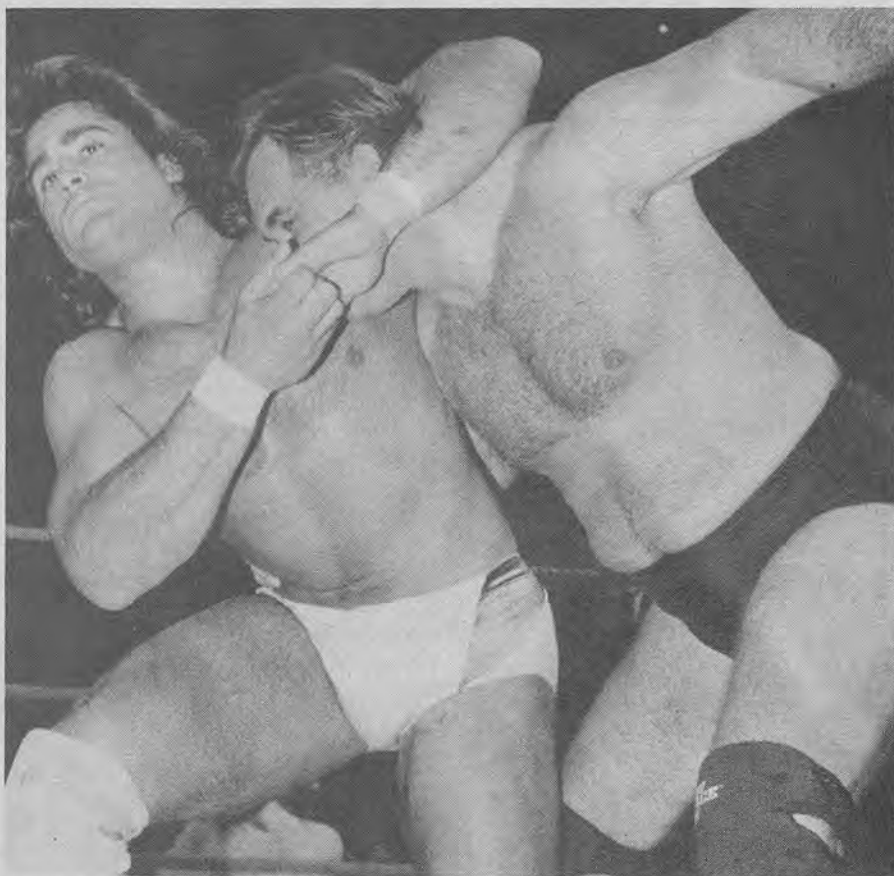


# INSIDE WRESTLING

157

## CAPSULE PROFILE

**T**OM ZENK IS a top contender for the AWA World title held by Larry Zbyszko (*"Every day I wrestle I come closer to that belt"*) ... The 6'1½", 237-pound native of Robbinsdale, Minnesota, has held the Mr. Minnesota, Mr. Twin Cities, and Mr. North Country bodybuilding titles (*"A great way to get in shape for the ring"*) ... Was trained for his wrestling debut by Verne Gagne (*"He has always been my idol"*) ... Developed an outstanding dropkick (*"It has always been one of my favorite moves"*) ... In his 1984 pro debut in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, defeated Jimmy Doo (*"Just getting in the ring that first time was a thrill"*) ... Traveled to the Pacific Northwest, where he and Scott Doring defeated Mike Miller and Moondog Moretti for the PNW tag team title on December 14, 1985 (*"That was exciting because it was my first title"*) ... On January 21, 1986, Zenk doubled his belt collection by winning the PNW singles title from Bobby Jagers (*"Two titles at once was unbelievable!"*) ... Two days later, Jagers got his revenge when he and Rip Oliver won the tag belts from Zenk and Doring (*"Win some, lose some"*) ... Dropped the singles title to Jagers on March 9, 1986 (*"He's a dirty wrestler"*) ... In 1987, Zenk teamed with Rick Martel and they became known as The Can-Am Connec-

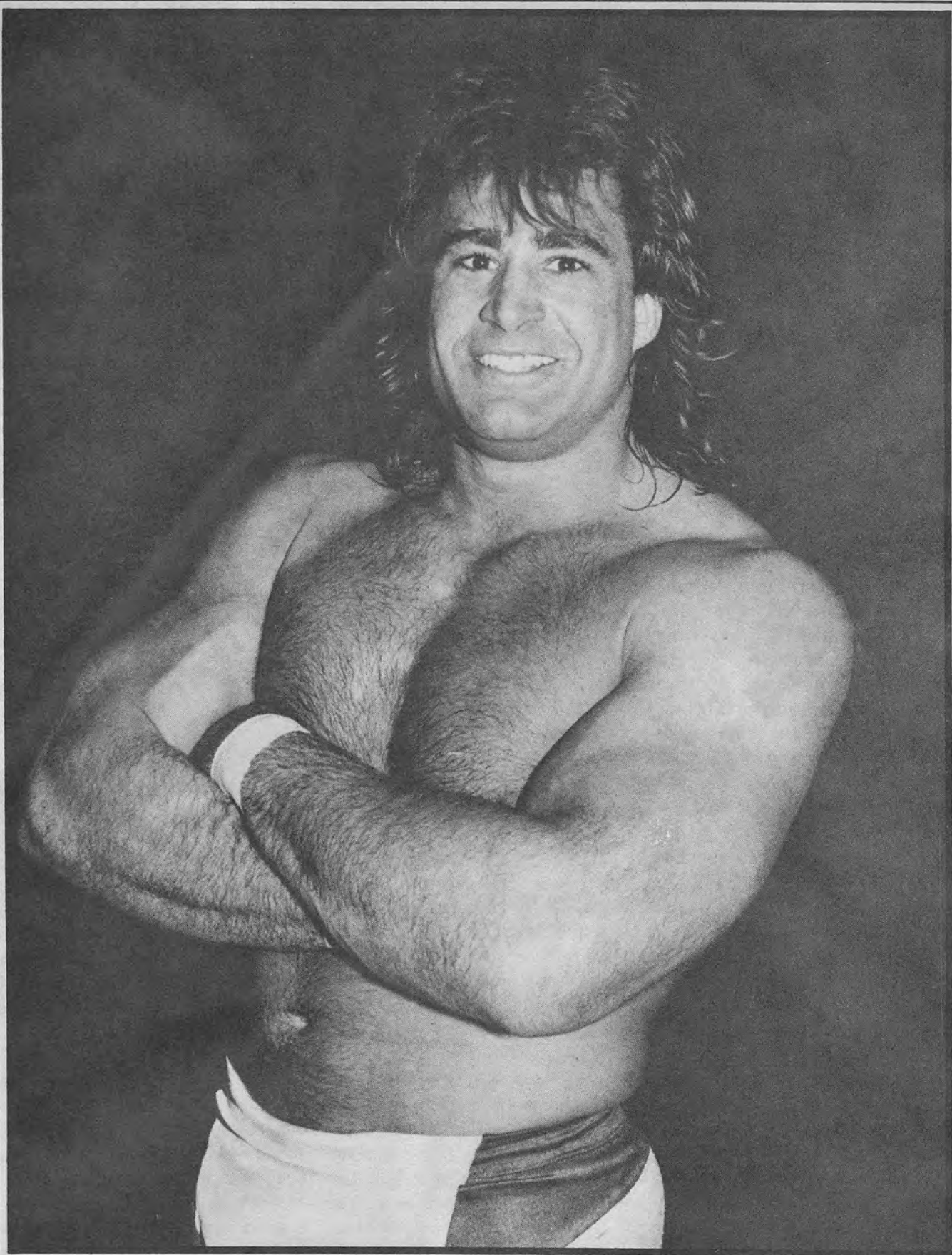


Tom Zenk headlocks Larry Zbyszko. They were the last two men in the ring at the AWA World title battle royal won by Zbyszko. Now Zenk is one of the most persistent challengers to Zbyszko's belt.

tion (*"I was really excited about our potential"*) ... Almost immediately, the team was touted as the next WWF World tag team champions (*"We were expected to do great things early on"*) ... Defeated Don Muraco and Bob Orton at WrestleMania III (*"We were really pumped up wrestling in front of that huge crowd"*) ... But the Can-Ams' promise fizzled out, and Zenk split with his partner and left the WWF (*"I told Rick it wasn't working. He was constantly trying to overshadow me"*) ... After taking some time off, Zenk returned to the AWA in an attempt to capture the World title Martel once held (*"I had to prove that I was at least Martel's equal, if not better"*) ... Wrestled with Stan Han-

sen in Japan (*"Stan's a wildman, and he's one of the greats"*) ... On February 7, 1989, in the battle royal to determine a new AWA World champion, Zenk and Zbyszko were the last two men in the ring (*"I thought I had the match won, but Zbyszko is a crafty veteran"*) ... Many of his title shots against Zbyszko have ended in controversy (*"Sometimes it seems the only way to win is to cheat"*) ... Has also wrestled tag team matches with Ken Patera, Wahoo McDaniel, and Brad Rheingans (*"The World tag title is still one of my goals"*) ... Ultimately, Zenk wants nothing less than a world championship (*"There's no doubt in my mind I'll be champion one day"*). □

## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



**TOM ZENK**



# BACK ISSUES OF



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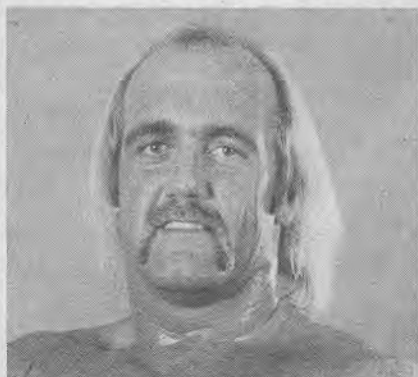
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## MILWAUKEE, WI By Andy Abrahamson



**HULK HOGAN**  
vs.  
**BIG BOSSMAN**



In this cage match, Hulk attacked Bossman before the bell. After stopping Hogan from going out the door, Bossman hurled him into the cage, opening an immense gash in his forehead. Later, Bossman leaped off the ropes and smashed Hogan in the head with an elbow. Hulk rallied and slammed Bossman's head into the cage, cutting him open. Slick threw handcuffs at Bossman but Hogan intercepted them, cuffed Bossman to the ropes, and climbed out of the cage for the win.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Big John Studd defeated Akeem ... Demolition beat The Powers of Pain ... Bret Hart and The Honky Tonk Man were both counted out ... Ted DiBiase defeated Tito Santana ... Curt Hennig beat Koko B. Ware ... Hillbilly Jim pinned Boris Zukhov ... Barry Horowitz defeated Scott Casey.

## CHARLESTON, WV By Eric Perkins



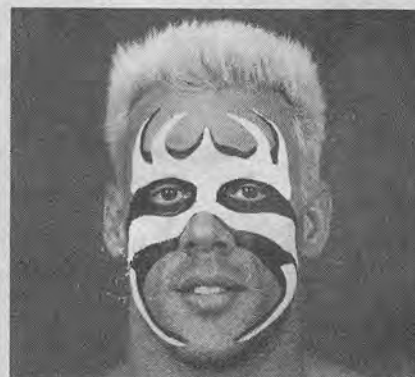
**LEX LUGER**  
vs.  
**RIC FLAIR**



Luger's U.S. title was on the line in this continuation of the Flair-Luger feud. Luger was the aggressor throughout, using his strength and size advantage to pound the "Nature Boy" with press-slams and clotheslines. Flair finally mounted the offensive, maneuvering Luger into the figure-four leglock. Luger broke the hold and surprisingly pinned Flair with a backslide at the 20-minute mark.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Road Warriors vs. Steve Williams & Dan Spivey ended in a double-countout ... Sting pinned Butch Reed ... Mike Rotundo pinned Rick Steiner ... The Great Muta beat Rip Rogers ... The Iron Sheik defeated Steve Casey ... Eddie Gilbert beat Bob Bradley.

## MEMPHIS, TN By Mark Mitchell



**STING**  
vs.  
**DAN SPIVEY**

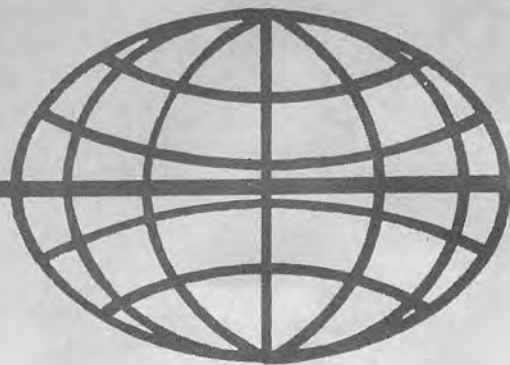


In the NWA's long-awaited return to Memphis, Sting's NWA TV title was on the line as he faced Spivey, the newest member of The Varsity Club. As expected, Spivey tried to turn the match into a brawl, but the "Stinger" continually got the best of him with his dazzling moves. If Spivey had wrestled scientifically, he might have fared better, but Sting clearly outclassed him and scored the easy pinfall.

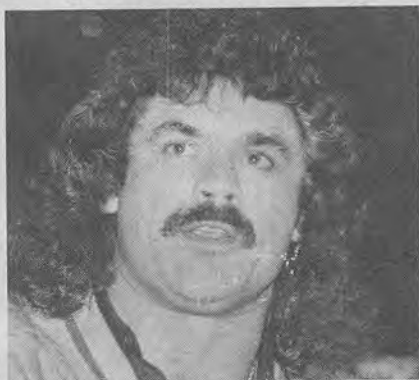
**OTHER BOUTS:** Bob Orton defeated Dick Murdoch ... The Samoan Swat Team beat Steve Casey & Junkyard Dog ... Eddie Gilbert defeated "Nightmare" Ken Wayne ... The Road Warriors and Mike Rotundo & Steve Williams were both counted out ... Lex Luger beat Michael Hayes by DQ ... Rick Steamboat pinned Ric Flair.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## MILAN, ITALY By Roberto Pastore



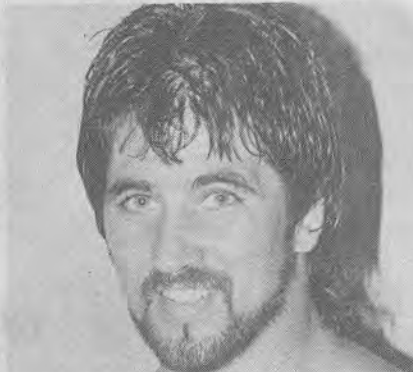
**RICK RUDE**  
vs.  
**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**



When the Warrior attempted a big splash, Rude bent his knees and hit Warrior in the chest. Rude applied a chinlock, but the Warrior broke it and back-suplexed him. The Warrior splashed Rude and covered him for the pin, but Big Bossman came to ringside and interrupted the count by tripping the referee, then hitting Warrior with his nightstick. After Rude was disqualified for outside interference, Warrior chased Bossman back to the dressing room.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Demolition defeated The Powers of Pain by DQ ... Rockin' Robin pinned Judy Martin ... Big Bossman pinned Koko B. Ware ... King Haku pinned Rick Martel ... Andre the Giant pinned Bret Hart ... Curt Hennig pinned The Blue Blazer.

## KNOXVILLE, TN By Andy Dawkins



**WENDELL COOLEY**  
vs.  
**TOM PRICHARD**



Prichard, who until recently was a big favorite of the fans in the Continental area, put his CWF title on the line against Cooley, who came to the ring confident and prepared. Bill Dundee, of whom many fans were suspicious, was the special referee. At a crucial point in the match, all three men collided. Cooley fell on top of Prichard. Dundee saw Prichard put his foot on the ropes, but he counted to three anyway and Cooley became the new champion.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Rick Morton beat Tony Anthony ... Todd Morton defeated Jimmy Golden ... Dan Davis beat Alan Martin ... Bill Dundee defeated Davey Rich ... Johnny Rich beat Masa Chono ... Jackie Fulton drew with Mike Davis ... Davey Rich won a battle royal in a cage.

## BOSTON, MA By June Renaldo



**RICK MARTEL**  
vs.  
**TITO SANTANA**



This match took place just days after Martel's shocking turn against Santana at WrestleMania V. The fans were really behind Tito, who had won his first Intercontinental title at Boston Garden in 1984. This was a great match between two evenly matched competitors, but in the end it was Martel's willingness to cheat that gave him the edge. Martel scored the pin, but he used the ropes for leverage. It looks like Strike Force will never get together again.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Ultimate Warrior beat Rick Rude by countout ... Demolition beat Akeem & Big Bossman by DQ ... Lanny Poffo pinned Jim Powers ... Brutus Beefcake pinned Bad News Brown ... The Honky Tonk Man pinned Hillbilly Jim ... Greg Valentine pinned Blue Blazer ... Barbarian pinned Jim Neidhart.



# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**NEW YORK, NY:** Check me into a rest home, boys, I've seen it all. A lot of people thought I wasn't myself after reading last month's column, and now I've figured out the problem: The more you watch sports, the more you realize that most people are simply out of their minds. That's one of the reasons I decided to become a wrestling writer. Wrestling fans might be a little raucous, and they like to support their favorites, but you're never going to see a riot at a wrestling card. Well, I was in the big city for a few days in April, staying at the Times Square Hotel, just resting and getting ready for another swing around the country, when I decided to turn on the tube and check out what's going on in TV wrestling. Well, this was Saturday morning, April 15, and the first thing I see is this news report from England about another riot in a soccer stadium. It seems that hundreds of people were trampled during a championship soccer game and they had to stop the match. Then, as the story develops, it turns out that 93 people died, hundreds more were injured, and it wasn't a *riot* at all. The place was packed to the gills and some lackey decided to open the gates and let a few thousand more people in. There's really something wrong when people get so worked up about sports. Another reason why I got into this business was because sports reporting is such a low-pressure beat. In sports, you're supposed to kick back, have a good time, and forget about it afterward. How often do you see a wrestling crowd walk out of an arena with sour looks on their faces? It's always amazed me that a sport as violent as wrestling doesn't cause a more violent reaction in the crowd. Sure, I've seen my share of fights in the stands, but full-scale riots? I guess wrestling fans have more class than people give them credit for. They know what they want, they know how to have a good time, and things usually don't get out of control.

**DALLAS, TX:** If Frank Dusek isn't voted the Wimp of the Year, I want a recount. Now, it's one thing



**ERIC EMBRY**

for a man to change his mind, and I'm not saying the World Class matchmaker made the wrong decision when he reinstated Eric Embry, but to take the abuse he did and then kiss up to Embry was something else. In case you don't know what I'm talking about, a while back Embry lost a loser-leaves-town match to Gary Young. Embry—a sore loser if there ever was one—appealed to Dusek to reverse the decision, but Dusek refused. Then Percy Pringle started a petition drive among World Class fans to get Embry reinstated. So one night, Pringle led the fans to Dusek's table at ringside and dropped a few thousand signatures on his desk. Not too long after that, Embry came out to thank the fans for their support and say a few choice words about Dusek. Then Dusek came out to speak with Embry, but



**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

Embry just pushed him to the floor and refused to listen. Dusek should have been humiliated—and pretty angry, too—but after all this, he stood up, reinstated Embry, and shook Embry's hand. Now, I don't know about you, but when somebody pushes me to the floor, my first reaction is to get up with guns a-blazing. As for Embry, well, loser-leaves-town means just that. If the loser doesn't leave town after a loser-leaves-town match, then it's meaningless. Embry might be a fan favorite now, but he hasn't learned a lick about following the rules. The aftermath of all this, by the way, was that Embry won the Texas title from Young in another loser-leaves-town match. If you ask me, Young should stick around for a while and wait for Dusek to change his mind, too. It's only fair.

**ATLANTIC CITY, NJ:** I know it's way past WrestleMania V, but I think a couple of comments are in order. Most importantly, a lot of people are talking down Randy Savage without realizing that, for 17 minutes, he turned in one heck of a performance. Hogan was down, beaten, and ready to pack it in, and it was because Savage dominated him. The fact that Savage's flying elbowsmash didn't result in a pin—and the fact that Hogan came back to pin him so cleanly—shouldn't take away from how well



**RANDY SAVAGE VS. HULK HOGAN**



**LARRY ZBYSZKO VS. WAHOO McDANIEL**

“Macho Man” wrestled at WrestleMania. I still think Savage can beat Hogan, and this match didn't prove that Hogan is a better wrestler. If you ask me, Savage thought Hogan was dead, so he didn't put the effort into the pin that he should have. So, when Hogan kicked out, the momentum was irreversibly shifted and there was nothing Savage could do about it. Funny thing: Let Hogan and Savage wrestle in an empty arena and Savage would win every time. Put those crazy Hulkamaniacs in there, and—well, you know what happens.

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN:** Give Larry Zbyszko some credit. He's scheduled to go down to Florida to wrestle FCW champ Mike Graham soon, and now there's news that he's working on signing a match against Dusty Rhodes, who holds the PWF title. This should be viewed as a positive step for Zbyszko, if he wants to heighten the reputation of the AWA World championship. And while we're at it, the AWA deserves a lot of credit for allowing its champions to wrestle guys from other federations. You know that Ted Turner or Vince McMahon Jr. would never hear of it, but, of course, that's the price fans must pay when the owners are rich men.





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# Paul Diamond & Pat Tanaka:

## THE "TAG TEAM OF THE '90s" WON'T MAKE IT THROUGH '89!

By Bob Smith

**O**NLY THREE MONTHS ago, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond were one of the most coveted attractions in the wrestling world. They had just celebrated their first year as AWA World tag team champions, and their manager, "Diamond" Dallas Page, wasn't afraid to let the world know all about it. He hosted a lavish party in Las Vegas for the purpose of honoring his champions on their accomplishment.

"This is the premier tag team of the '90s, daddy," boasted Page at the raucous celebration on March 19, exactly one year after Bad Company defeated The Rockers to become AWA tag champions. "We're only just gettin' started, too. Tanaka and Diamond are both veterans, but they're still in their mid-20s. I can't see any reason why we can't keep these belts for at least another

*Photos by Terrence Muchalek*

**It was only a few short months ago when Bad Company was riding high as AWA World tag team champions. Today, Pat Tanaka, Paul Diamond, and their manager, "Diamond" Dallas Page, spend more time arguing with each other than winning matches**

decade . . . Hey, Doll, gimme a refill on that champagne, baby."

Page's good cheer would soon turn to confusion and bitterness. Only six days later, in Rochester, Minnesota, the unranked team of Ken Patera and Brad Rheingans upset Diamond and Tanaka to win the AWA tag title.

"If you ask me, we'd still have the belts now if it wasn't for Paul," said Tanaka, who previously had been very close to Diamond. "That goofy referee, Gary DeRusha, was knocked cold outside the ring, and as everybody knows, that's when we do our best business. So how could Diamond mess up a sure thing?"

Diamond, probably intentionally, had tossed Rheingans into DeRusha a few minutes earlier, sending the hapless arbiter crashing to the arena floor. With Patera trying to revive DeRusha outside the ring, Tanaka grabbed a foreign object from his trunks as Diamond held Rheingans in position for the punch.

As Tanaka swung at Rheingans, the Olympian moved out of the way, and Tanaka's fist landed squarely on Diamond's jaw. At the same time, Patera had revived DeRusha and rolled the referee back into the ring. Seeing Rheingans on top of Diamond, DeRusha counted the pinfall.

"Since when does Tanaka need a chunk of steel?" complained Diamond in the locker room after the match. "The guy's a black belt in karate, and he suddenly needs a piece of metal to kayo a wimp like Rheingans?"

As Diamond spoke, Tanaka entered the room. Diamond didn't contain his anger. "It's *your* fault, Pat!" he yelled. "You blew it! You're a disgrace to this team!"

With that, Tanaka exploded into a rage, and Page was forced to separate his former champions. It was clear that things were never going to be the same between these once-close companions.

A few days later, however, Page tried to put up a brave front. He hauled Diamond, Tanaka, and a couple of Diamond Dolls in front of a television camera for an interview.

"We're gonna make up for the loss



In happier days, Page and Tanaka protect Diamond (above). Brad Rheingans backflips Tanaka (left).



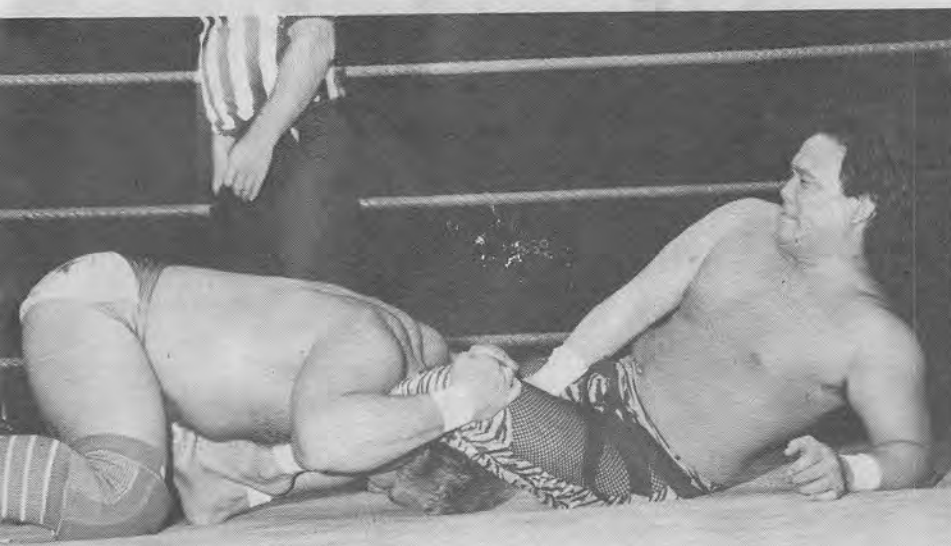
Rheingans and Derrick Dukes blast Paul Diamond with a double-dropkick. Since losing the AWA World tag team title to Rheingans and Ken Patera, Tanaka and Diamond have lost confidence in themselves as a team and have begun to argue more frequently.

by getting right back on track, Jack," said Page, smiling as usual. "We're gonna take on that Pop Gun—oops, I mean *Top Gun*, Ricky Rice, who's gonna team with Rheingans, who's too chicken to defend his tag title against

us. We're gonna dominate, just like we've always done. Any rumors of dissension with my champions are just a bunch of lies, ain't they, boys?"

Tanaka stared at the floor while Diamond just grunted. They stood well





Dukes shoulderblocks Tanaka (top). Tanaka locks Rheingans in a headscissors (above). Page swears there are no problems with Bad Company, but both Tanaka and Diamond have blamed Page for some of the team's woes.

apart from each other on separate sides of the interview area. In any event, it certainly didn't look like family hour on the home TV screen.

Two days later, Bad Company found themselves in the ring against

Derrick Dukes and Rheingans, and for most of the bout it seemed like old times again. For the first several minutes, it was the familiar combination of Bad Company double-teaming coupled with Page's wily interference that

led to several near-pinfalls.

Alas, their teamwork—and harmony—quickly disintegrated. As Page crept up on the ring apron to hit Rheingans with his cane, Dukes rushed into the ring to unleash a dropkick on Tanaka, which sent him soaring through the ropes. He crashed into his manager, and the pair crumbled to the arena floor, where Tanaka was counted out. Diamond immediately left the ring and stormed back to the locker room. He stood fuming while waiting for his teammates to join him. He was very aware of the presence of the *Inside Wrestling* reporter.

"What good is having a manager if he can't ensure that you win your matches?" complained the Canadian star. "If you ask me, Page has been spending a little bit too much time down in Florida with that Big Steel Man guy. We're the only champions he's ever managed, so we should be his number-one priority."

"That's right," said Tanaka, rubbing his head as he entered the locker room with Page and a pair of Diamond Dolls. "If you can't get the job done, then get out of the way, Page. We were champions *before* we hired you, and now we don't have any belts at all. What does *that* say for your ability?"

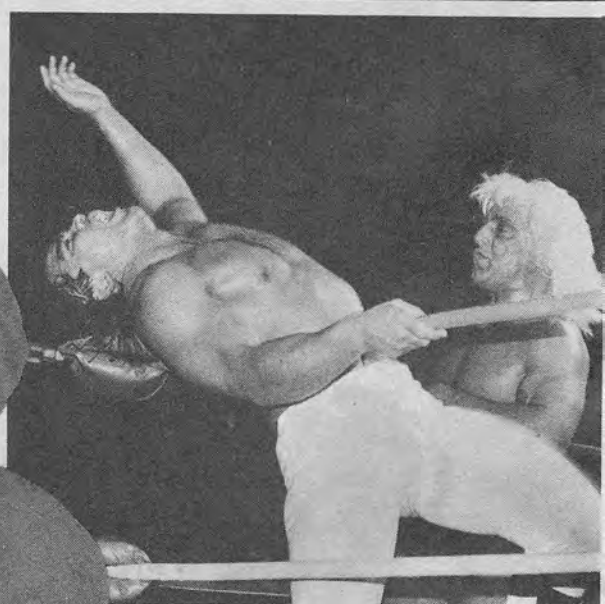
"How *dare* you guys get on my case!" Page screamed. "It wasn't *me* who missed with that foreign object against Rheingans. I can only think up these schemes. It's up to you two to do the dirty work, or we'll never be champions again."

As the weeks have gone by, it has been more of the same. More losses, more finger-pointing, more of each member blaming the other. Who's the culprit?

Actually, they *all* are. Tanaka and Diamond have been one of the finest teams of this decade, but it looks like they'll never make it as a duo again. In fact, the hottest rumor in the AWA is that Tanaka and Diamond may soon be *facing* each other.

Bad Company has indeed gone bad. And 1989 isn't even close to being over! □

# Too Many **RICK**



In defense of his NWA World title, Rick Steamboat is chopped by Ric Flair (above), headlocked by Ron Simmons (right), slammed by Dan Spivey (middle right), and elbowsmashed by Mike Rotundo (far right).

By Dave Rosenbaum

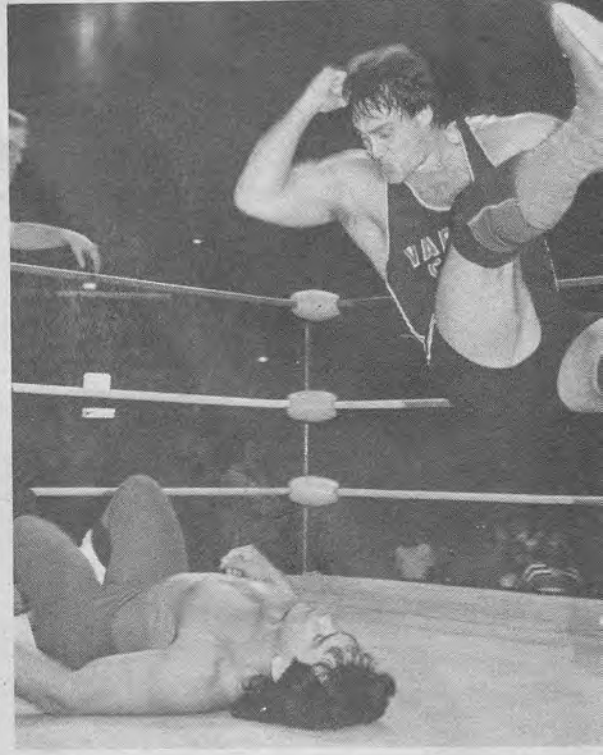
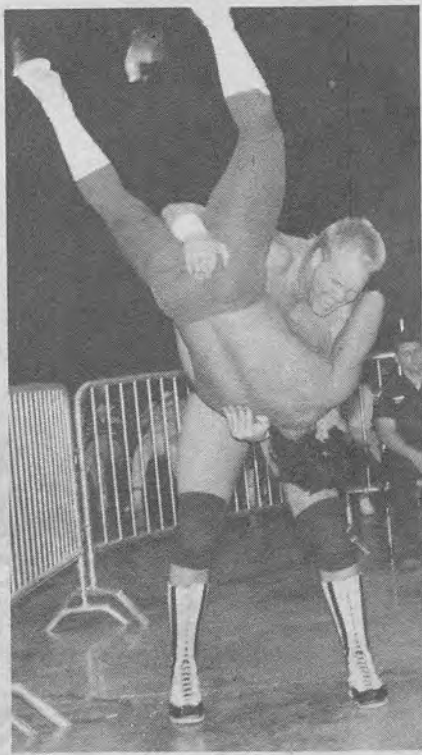
**R**ICK STEAMBOAT SHOULD be aware of the old saying: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me." Having already been fooled once—and in such embarrassing fashion—he should have gone to great lengths to make sure it will never happen again.

Well, call Rick Steamboat the NWA World champion. Call him a fool, too.

*NWA World champion Rick Steamboat has defended his title against Ric Flair . . . and Ron Simmons, Jack Victory, Mike Rotundo, and now Danny Spivey. Is Steamboat trying to do too much? Will "The Dragon's" championship fire be extinguished by his own foolishness?*



# Contenders, Too Little Time: **STEAMBOAT'S**



## **CHAMPIONSHIP DILEMMA**

Back in 1987, Steamboat was WWF Intercontinental champion. His title reign figured to be filled with many pitfalls and serious tests from numerous top challengers, including former champion Randy Savage.

But on June 2, 1987, in Buffalo, New York, Steamboat wrestled The Honky Tonk Man, who had only just earned the number-nine spot in *Inside*

*Wrestling's* WWF top 15 (and only because Steamboat had agreed to wrestle him). The result of that match was shocking: Honky Tonk upset Steamboat to win the title.

Which brings up another old saying: "On any given day, any wrestler can beat any other wrestler."

Since June 2, 1987, Steamboat has learned how to be a devoted husband

and loving father. He has learned how to beat Ric Flair, and how to be a model NWA World champion.

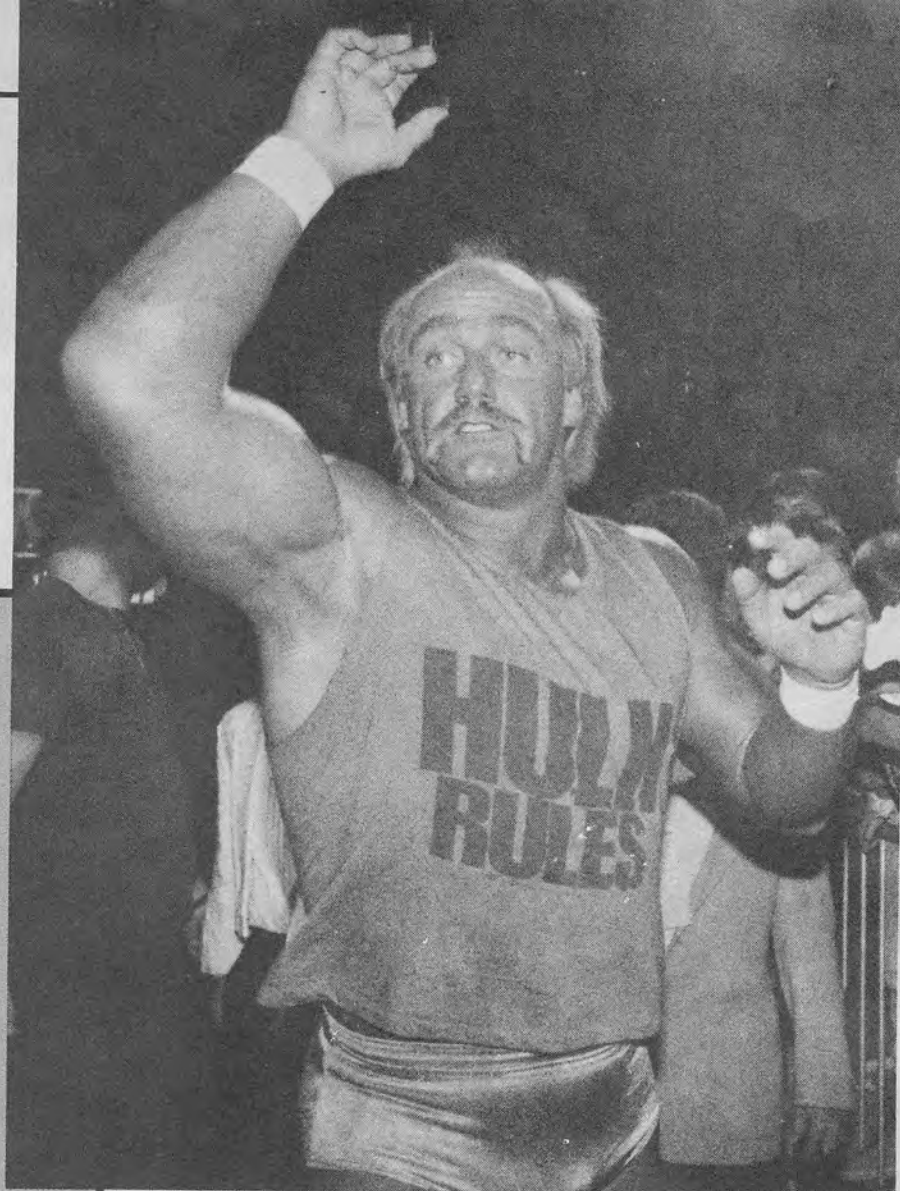
Unfortunately, however, he hasn't learned from history.

And now, as Steamboat gains more and more confidence from his victories over Flair, history is on the verge of teaching him another lesson.

(Continued on page 52)

# Your Ballots Are In:

*First, Hulk Hogan defeated Randy Savage at WrestleMania V for the WWF World title. Now, Hogan has defeated the "Macho Man" for a place in your hearts. The thousands of fans who supported Hogan in our special poll can't be wrong: Hulkamania rules!*



# HULKAMANIA RULES!

By Bill Apter





**H**ULK HOGAN HAS defeated Randy Savage once again ... but this time the beating didn't take place in the ring. Like the last time, however, when Hogan defeated Savage for the WWF World title, he did it with *your* help!

The victory came via your responses to our special fan poll in the June 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling*: "Macho Madness Or Hulkamania: Which *Really* Rules?" And the results, by an overwhelming landslide of 71 percent to 29 percent, made your feelings very clear:

Hulkamania rules!

More than 31,000 readers responded to our poll, indicative of the way this incredible feud between the former Megapower partners has captured your imagination. An astounding 22,085 fans said that Hulkamania rules, but don't think Macho Madness is

dead; 9,021 of you are rooting for the "Macho Man" to regain the WWF World title—and feel that he will!

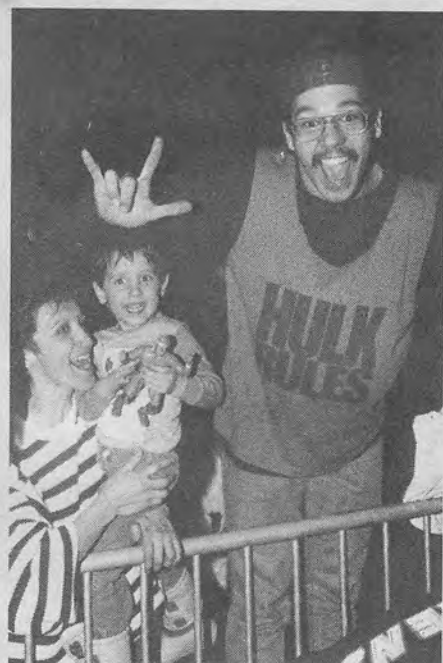
The response to this poll was certainly gratifying—unless you're a mailman in Rockville Centre, New York! Less than one week after the June issue went on sale, several local postmen visited our offices, each bearing a sack filled with poll responses that could not fit in our post office box. It took significant amounts of overtime from our crack secretarial staff to sort and count all the ballots.

Don't think this bothered us, though. Such intense response on controversial issues are what helps make wrestling the greatest sport in the world!

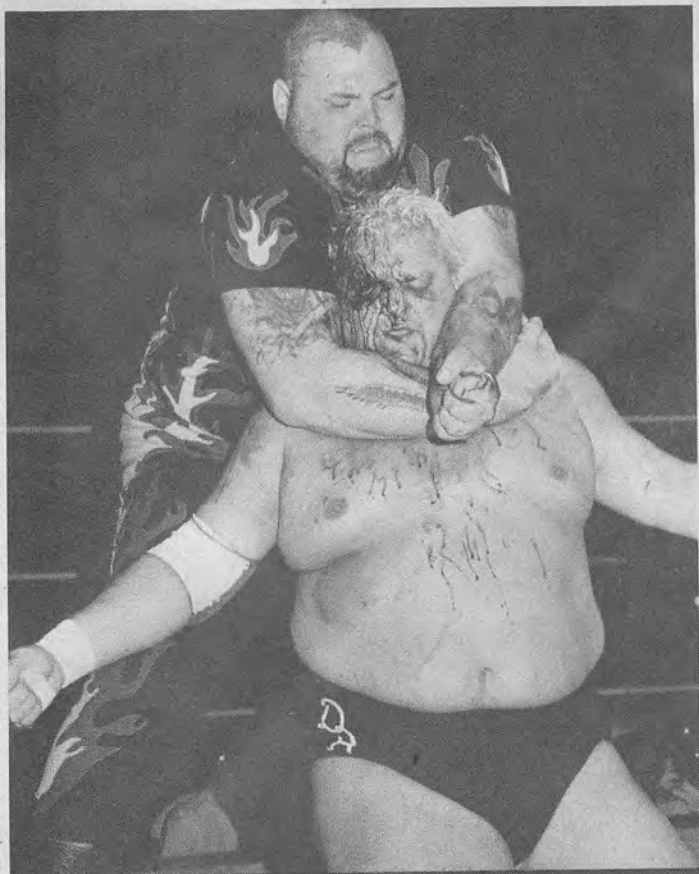
It's clear, however, that there's never been anything like the war between Macho Madness and

(Continued on page 56)

Hulkamania ruled when Hulk Hogan vanquished Randy Savage back in 1986 (above), and it rules today among these fans (below) and thousands like them.



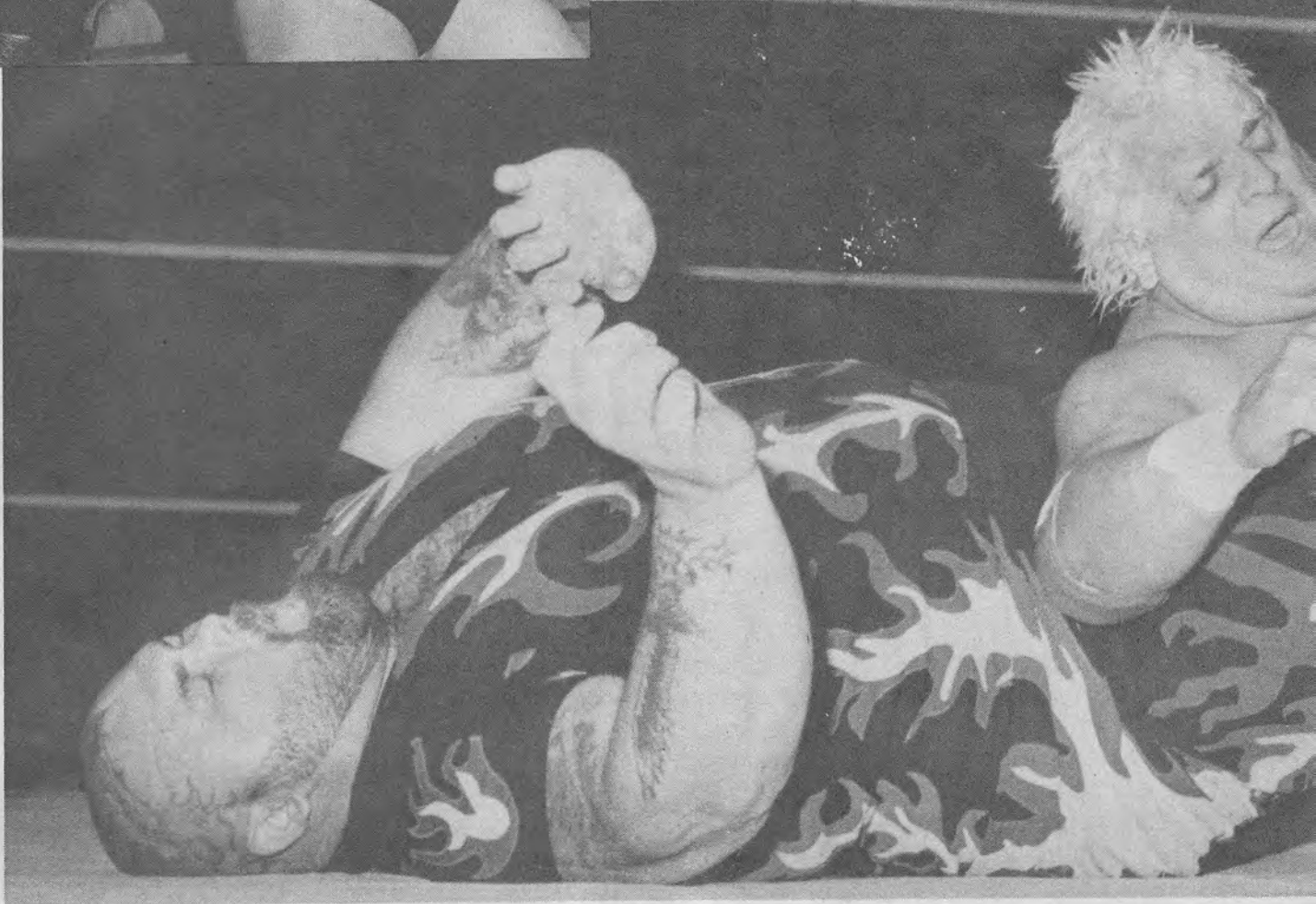
# **BAM BAM BIGELOW:**



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**“I DON’T WANT  
TO DESTROY  
DUSTY  
RHODES—  
I HAVE TO!”**

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**Former bounty hunter Bam Bam Bigelow is after the biggest prize of his life: Dusty Rhodes! Though Bigelow is reluctant to complete this mission, he knows that his success or failure will have a tremendous effect on his career**

**By Stu Saks**

**B**EFORE HE WAS a wrestler, Bam Bam Bigelow was a bounty hunter. That piece of information is extremely important to this story.

Bigelow's job was to track down bail-jumpers, and he was only paid if he got his man. It is a lucrative, though dangerous, occupation, one that Bigelow would still be at if he wasn't nearly killed during a particular job in Mexico.

So in early April, when Sir Oliver Humperdink put a \$10,000 bounty on the head of Dustin Rhodes, Bigelow's instincts took over. The fact that Dustin is the son of PWF champ Dusty Rhodes, with whom

Bigelow had forged a strong friendship during his stay in the NWA, meant nothing.

Because in Bigelow's world, money talks.

"Hump's my manager, I do what he tells me to do, and I don't ask no questions," Bigelow said. "Hump's job is to think, my job is to wrestle, and when he said \$10,000, I didn't want that money in anyone's hands but mine. Besides, why the heck should I worry about Dustin? He ain't never meant nothing to me."

But Dusty has.

Although the "American Dream" has vowed to stay out of

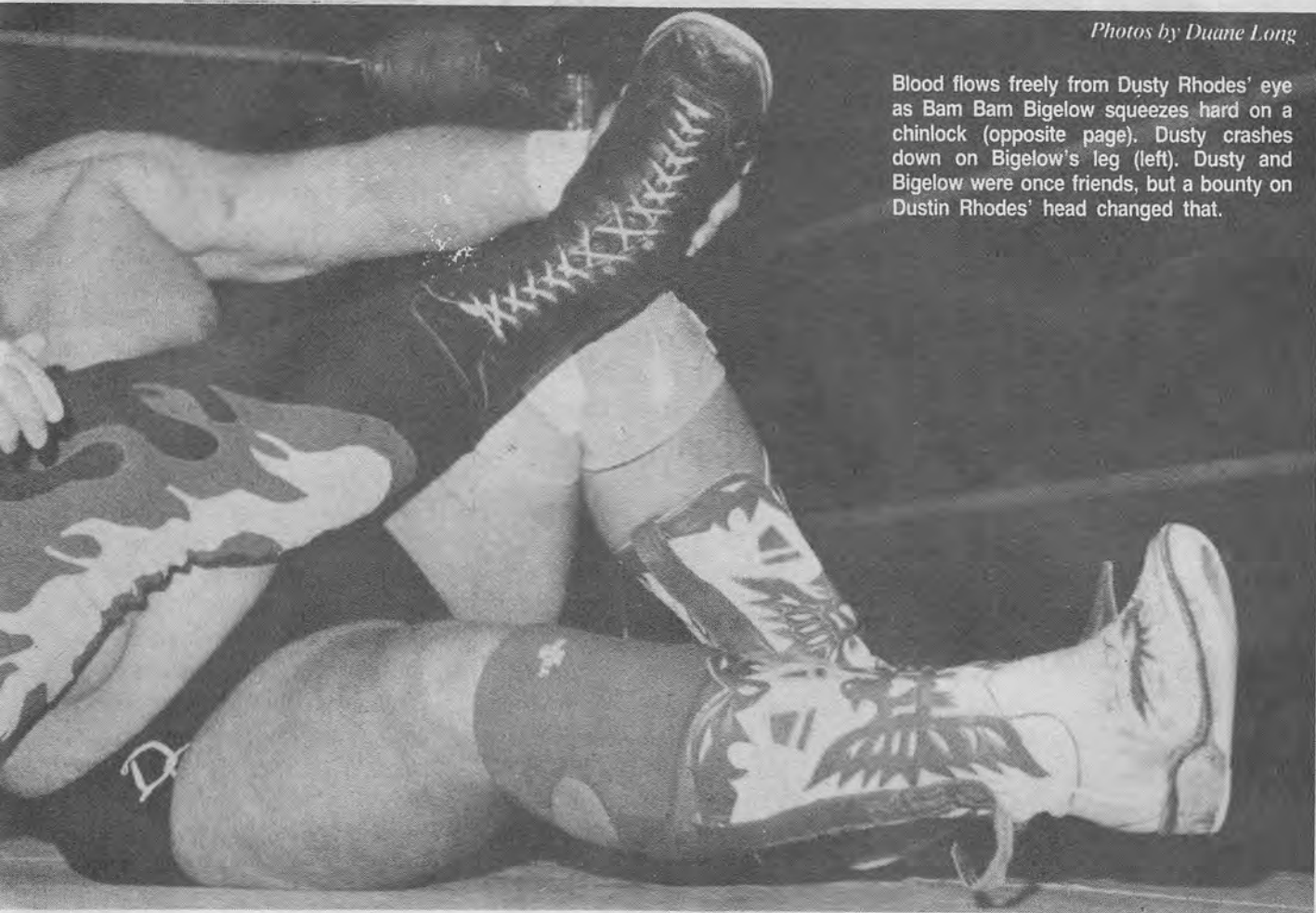
his son's business, he isn't one to stand by and watch when he feels his son is in serious danger. When there's a \$10,000 bounty on your head, you'd better believe you're in serious danger.

"Listen here, brother, I want my son to learn the sport the hard way, but that don't mean gettin' his head broken open like a watermelon," Rhodes said. "Me and Bam Bam were friends, but when he starts going after my son, that's a different ballgame. He's gonna have to play with the 'Dream,' and that's a game he can't win."

It is, however, a game Bigelow's  
*(Continued on page 62)*

*Photos by Duane Long*

Blood flows freely from Dusty Rhodes' eye as Bam Bam Bigelow squeezes hard on a chinlock (opposite page). Dusty crashes down on Bigelow's leg (left). Dusty and Bigelow were once friends, but a bounty on Dustin Rhodes' head changed that.



# HOTSEAT

## JIM CORNETTE

### "I Doubted Myself For The First Time Ever"

**I**T WAS ONLY eight months ago that *The Midnight Express* had emerged as the dominant force in all of tag team wrestling. On September 10, 1988, Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, led by manager Jim Cornette, upset Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson for the NWA World tag team title—at a time when they already held the U.S. tag belts. Never before had an NWA team reached such a lofty pinnacle.

Now, that period of prosperity seems like eons ago. The Express seemed primed for new horizons after ending the threat of Paul E. Dangerously's "Original" *Midnight Express* in February. But from that point, things seemed to sour almost immediately. Dangerously's new duo, *The Samoan Swat Team*, began to defeat Lane and Eaton on a regular basis. The Express even began to have difficulty winning matches against unranked teams. And, most surprising of all, Cornette actually seemed subdued and somber, as if depleted of all enthusiasm.

On March 23, the word hit the streets. Cornette announced that he and his men were leaving the NWA. The news spread quickly, shocking the legions of fans the Express had gained during their wars with the "Original" Express and *The Road Warriors*.

Cornette is going home to Kentucky, Eaton is going home to Alabama to recover from multiple ring injuries, and Lane, as Cornette put it, "is going to the beach."

Assistant Editor Bob Smith traveled to Louisville, Kentucky, to speak with Cornette about his shocking decision to derail his Express.

“

**Stan [Lane] was unhappy, Bobby [Eaton] was hurting, and I was forcing them into battle when their hearts weren't really into it.**

”

**Q:** Jim, my first question is the same one that I've been hearing from all the fans during the past few weeks: Why have *The Midnight Express* decided to leave the NWA? A lot of fans can't get used to the idea of not having you around.

**A:** Well, Bob, a lot of factors are

coming into play, but it's mainly because we're not a bunch of happy campers right now. One of the biggest reasons is Bobby is really wracked with injuries. He's suffered more than any man I've ever seen during the past couple of months. His shoulders are throbbing, his neck is all out of kilter, and his nose has almost been ripped out of his head. I saw no reason to make him continue to hurt like that. But there's a lot more to it than just that stuff.

**Q:** There must be. There's been a lot of grist for the rumor mill lately. Some have been claiming that you and your men haven't been getting along . . .

**A:** That's a complete lie! It sounds like Dangerously's been feeding you his pathetic brand of psychobabble, and you're not quite bright enough to see through his line of bull. There is absolutely nothing wrong between me and my men. In fact, my deep feelings of respect and friendship for them is the reason why I've pulled out of the NWA.

**Q:** Now I'm totally confused.

**A:** That's 'cause your head has been up a dark place for too long, son. Just listen to me and you'll get the







“

We got a little too concerned with pleasin' the people, and not enough with gettin' down to business.

”

*real* story. After we ended the minor threat of beating Dangerously and his “Original” Midnight Defects, something went wrong. A lot of it had to do with having to fight Dennis Condrey in those matches. It was like trying to beat up your own brother. Dennis acted like he wanted to do away with us, but a brother is still a brother. It wasn't pleasant trying to hurt somebody you'd been very close with.

**Q:** You managed to drive them away, though. After Chi-Town Rumble, nobody was talking about the “Original” Express anymore.

**A:** True. But what did we get for it? Matches in little towns against teams like The Amazing Mosquitoes, The Brewmeisters, or other “contenders” with names like those. We had won the U.S. title, the World title, and even got rid of the Rose/Condrey tandem, and it



Bobby Eaton blasts Fatu with a flying dropkick. Cornette says Eaton desperately needs time off to recover from several ring injuries.

was worth nothing to us in terms of future match contracts. That started to really get under our skins. At about that same time, we got matched with Dangerously's newest set of jungle-jumping jerks, The Samoan Swat Team, and a very funny—make that *not* so funny—thing started happening. We started losing some matches.

**Q:** What was the problem there? I had never seen the Express look so completely out of it.

**A:** At that point, our lethargy was my fault. Really, I doubted myself for the first time ever. Stan was unhappy, Bobby was hurting, and I was forcing them into battle when their hearts weren't really into it. I shouldn't have done it. I was leading us right into a rut.

**Q:** You definitely weren't yourself for a few weeks. Since when does Jim Cornette come out to ringside and

*not* raise hell?

**A:** You're not just whistling “Dixie,” brother. A couple days after we got beat by the Swats in Atlanta, I went in and had a long talk with several members of the NWA hierarchy. I told them that if we weren't sufficiently talented in their eyes to be the top contenders for the World tag team title, then we shouldn't be wrestling here at all. It was decided that April 15 would be our final day and that was it. We all decided to go back to our respective homes and take some time off.

**Q:** It was some pretty odd timing, though. You and Dangerously were still constantly at each other's throats when you left.

**A:** Exactly right, chum. *Me* and Dangerously. Cornette and Paul E. Nothingness are the ones who are hot 'n' heavy against each other. I was draggin' Bobby and Stan into *my* conflict. Sure, my boys aren't exactly thrilled with that bum, but to them he's nothing more than a humorous sideshow freak, not a legitimate threat. To me, he's the greatest enemy I've ever had, since he's attacked me on several occasions. Why make them suffer more than they already have?

**Q:** Right now, though, the fans are the ones that are suffering. We've received hundreds of letters begging Stan and Bobby to return to the NWA.

**A:** There's *another* thing that's changed over the last few months. Suddenly, me, Bobby, and Stan were getting cheered to the rafters every place we went. If you ask me, some of those cheers were starting to make us a little soft.

**Q:** Are you saying you don't want the fans' support any longer?

**A:** That's not what I said. You're trying to read too much into this. What I *am* saying is that we got a little too concerned with pleasin' the people, and not enough with gettin' down to business. I was actually starting to feel more like a cheerleader instead of a manager,



and that's not how The Midnight Express got to the top. I built my reputation by being one of the most calculating, devious, sneaky cheap-shot artists in the history of this sport, not by waving pom-poms. I was becoming a parody of myself, and it was hurting the team.

**Q:** So now you've all gone your separate ways, at least for the time being. Does this mean you'll be looking to manage some other wrestlers?

**A:** Have you been listening to what I've been tellin' you? This has *nothing* to do with looking for new talent. The Midnight Express are a true team, three of the biggest talents in history combined into one superior fighting force. They don't do anything without me, and I'm

sure not gonna damage that trust by abandoning them now. I'm not interested in anything but *our* best interests. And right now, our best interests are in getting healthy, getting our perspective back, and then getting back into action.

**Q:** Many people think you're missing out on a great opportunity. Steve Williams and Mike Rotundo hold the NWA World tag team title, and that's a team the Express has beaten many times in the past.

**A:** *(pauses)* I can't really help that right now. Let 'em fight it out with those big Road Warrior goons. It's more important for us to get our heads back in the game.

**Q:** So what are each of you up to?

**A:** Well, Stanley is on a California beach right now with a couple of the most drop-dead beautiful girls



“

**I built my reputation by being one of the most calculating, devious, sneaky cheap-shot artists in the history of this sport.**

”



Stan Lane nails Randy Rose in the midsection with a karate kick (above). Jim Cornette is helped to his feet after being attacked by Paul E. Dangerously (below).



I've ever seen. It's too much for a man like me, really. Bobby is in Huntsville, getting therapy for those aching joints and eating some of his mamma's good home cooking. As for me, I'm enjoying the time off, too, but I've still got my nose to the grindstone. I'm preparing for the biggest comeback in the history of wrestling.

**Q:** Really? What can we expect?

**A:** I'm not gonna tip my hand by telling you now. But let this be a warning to the fans, the promoters, and the other teams that think they've got a ghost of a chance against us: Enjoy your time while you can, boys. The Midnight Express will soon return, and we're gonna be bigger, badder, and better than we've ever been—or we won't be back at all. We won't settle for anything less than number-one ever again, and you can sign my name to that one, Jack. □



## Message To Rick Rude:

# GET SERIOUS— OR GET CLIPPED!

By Liz Hunter

**T**HE MUSIC SOUNDS similar to the theme from *The Stripper*, but it's decidedly different, just like the man whose arena entrance it accompanies. Soon, the wrestler enters the ring, swaying his hips back and forth to the music as the flashbulbs pop.

He grabs the house microphone and orders the music stopped, then proceeds to insult every man in the arena. Slowly, teasingly, his manager, Bobby Heenan, opens his ring robe, revealing one of the most perfectly sculpted physiques in the sport—and his newly acquired gold belt. The male ring-siders scoff, while women furious-

ly crane their necks to try to catch a glimpse.

It sickens some and titillates others, but Rick Rude is the new WWF Intercontinental champion. One contender, however, is ecstatic that Rude was able to win the title. As strange as it sounds, Brutus Beefcake looks at Rude's upset victory over The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania V as one of the greatest opportunities of his career.

In the months that preceded WrestleMania, Beefcake battled Rude in arenas all across the country. Not only did Beefcake manage to win a majority of these matches,

but he established himself as one of the "Ravishing One's" most persistent enemies. Now, "The Barber" has issued a stern warning to the new champion:

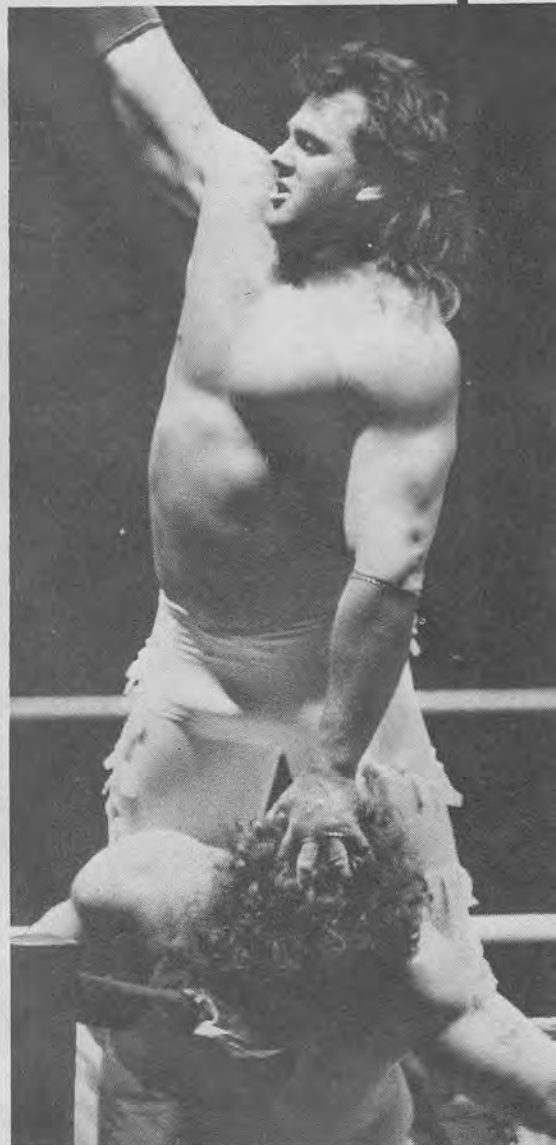
Get serious—or get clipped!

One would assume the responsibility of being Intercontinental champion would have made Rude a bit more businesslike in his demeanor, but thus far the opposite seems to be the case. Rude still seems more concerned with his antics before and after his matches, especially in planting his "Rude Awakening" kisses on women at ringside. It's almost as if he never won the I-C title at all, and that's one of the reasons Beefcake wants a rematch against Rude worse than anything else



**Rick Rude may be the new Intercontinental champion, but Brutus Beefcake believes he's cut out for a title shot. "The Barber" thinks he's the man who can clip Rude's title from around his waist, and unless Rude sets his mind to business, it's a good bet that Beefcake will strut and cut his way to glory!**

Brutus Beefcake has Rick Rude in position for a hair clipping (below). "The Barber" loves to cut hair, but when Rude's Intercontinental title is on the line, he puts away the scissors and gets down to wrestling.



he's ever strived for during his career.

Rude's preoccupation in maintaining his sex-symbol image is a big reason why he lost to Beefcake in an important match at New York's Madison Square Garden in February, less than two months before WrestleMania V. Before the bout, Rude engaged in his usual tactics as he preened, posed, and teased the female fans by refusing to remove his ring robe.

Rude's fun wouldn't last long. An incensed Beefcake ran to the ring and cut the tasteless display short, and soon he was dominating his opponent with a host of power maneuvers. When the match ended, Beefcake had earned a hard-fought pinfall victory—mainly be-

cause he was professional enough to forget about his haircutting frolics and get down to *serious* business.

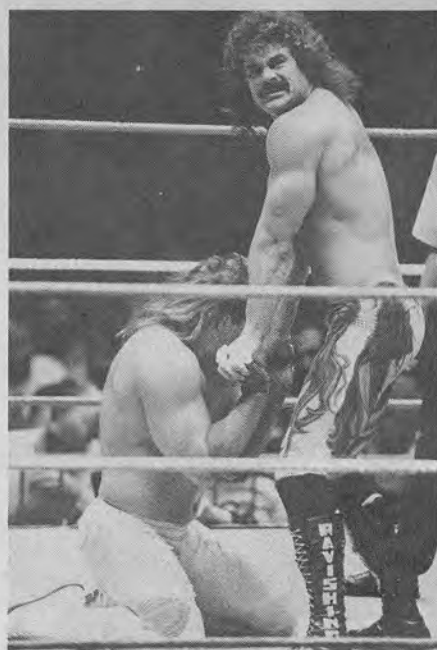
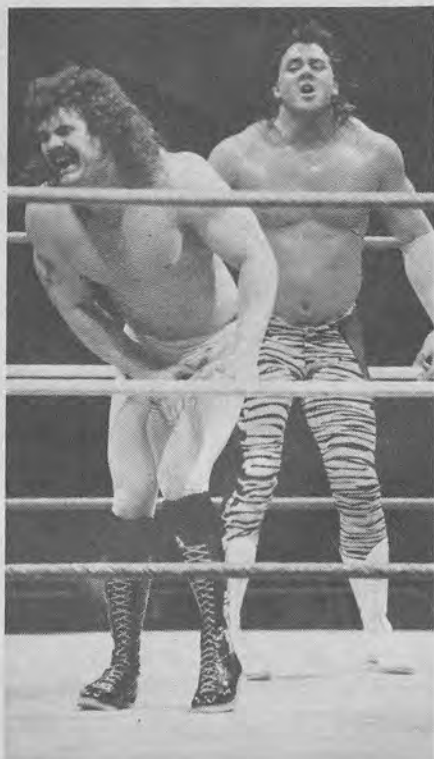
"Sure, I've seen Rude's act, but I can't believe what I'm seeing," remarked Don Muraco, a two-time Intercontinental titleholder who took his championship responsibilities very seriously. "Rude may be a champion because he's won that belt, but it doesn't seem to matter to the guy. All he seems to want to do is strut, pose, and blow kisses. The ladies in the crowd may love that kind of stuff—he *does* have a terrific body—but it only makes his opponents angry. I hear Beefcake hates it more than just about anybody else, too."

Muraco isn't the only one to no-

tice Beefcake's reaction to Rude. It appears Rude's pandering may be another reason why Beefcake can't wait to lock up with the I-C champion. While it's true that many female fans are turned on by Rude's masculine figure and flamboyant presence, just as many seem to



Rude unloads on Beefcake with a forearm (above) and wins a test of strength (top right). Rude feels the pain of a Beefcake kick (below). The I-C champ doesn't take Beefcake's threat as seriously as he should.



ten it yet, but it seems likely he'll lock up with the "Ravishing One" before long. For Beefcake, the waiting is the hardest part.

Beefcake is anxious, and rightfully so, but circumstances dictate that he's got to wait his turn. As the former titleholder, The Ultimate Warrior is getting the first title chances. If he's unsuccessful in regaining the belt, it's likely that Beefcake *will* become the next contender. But that waiting is making Beefcake very impatient right now.

Beefcake's new attitude may even spell an end to his barbering antics for the time being. On more than one occasion in the past, his insistence on cutting the hair of Rude—and Heenan—has led to disqualification verdicts. He can't afford to make those kind of mistakes with a title on the line.

Beefcake is smart enough to know when to stop clowning and start wrestling, and that's a lesson Rude apparently *hasn't* learned. With this kind of threat hanging over his head, Rude had best set his mind to business. If he doesn't, women may still line up to get a kiss from the Intercontinental champion.

Only this time, Beefcake will be holding both the women *and* the title. □

think Beefcake is just as sexy—or even more so—than Rude. What better reason to take Rude's belt?

"Hey, Beefcake was a male dancer before he became a wrestler, and every move he makes proves it," said Sheila Kamen, a regular at WWF cards at Boston Garden. "Nobody is ever gonna convince me that Rude's skinny, overdeveloped frame can hold a candle to Beefcake's magnificent bod. Sure, he's not quite as cut up as Rude, but he's *naturally* sexy. And that face, that hair! I can't control myself when he enters that ring."

Fan approval or not, Beefcake's past victories over Rude would seem to make him a worthy contender for a title match, but thus far he has yet to receive a single one. Immediately after Rude defeated the Warrior on April 2, Beefcake reportedly petitioned WWF President Jack Tunney for a shot at Rude's title. He hasn't got-



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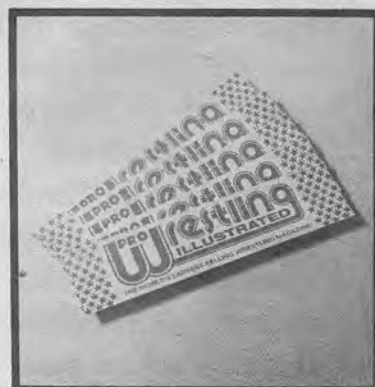
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**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

# ONE ON ONE



**"I'm gonna take that giant-size ego and ram it right down your throat until you choke."**

**—Michael Hayes**

**I**T IS A feud born of convenience. As a fan favorite, Michael Hayes was going nowhere in the NWA, so Hiro Matsuda offered him a lucrative contract to join his stable. When the time came for Hayes to make his move, Lex Luger was there.

Certainly, Luger had more pressing business on his mind. The U.S. champion was preparing for an important match against Ric Flair, and had to be ready for the ever-present threat of Matsuda cohort Barry Windham.

He couldn't possibly have been ready for what his March 14 tag team match with Hayes against Barry and Kendall Windham had to offer.

A few minutes into the match, Hayes got down on all fours behind Luger, allowing the Windhams to push him down. Then all three men teamed up on Luger and delivered a savage beating. The Michael Hayes of Freebird lore had returned—and in most calculating fashion. His actions served two purposes: They made him a member of Matsuda's group, and they earned him a feud with the U.S. champ. Suddenly, Hayes was rich and a contender.

Although the younger and more powerful Luger has handled Hayes in their matches to date, the feud has intensified. On March 18 in Philadelphia, Barry and Hayes attacked Luger, who had just beaten Kendall. More recently, at an Atlanta TV taping, Luger won a preliminary match and

challenged Hayes (who was doing color commentary) to get into the ring. Hayes, though wearing street clothes, obliged, and the two rivals engaged in another brawl.

Luger, of course, has already fallen into the trap. It is a mistake to get into a feud with a Freebird, because they never give up. And it is an indication of how consumed Luger is with this feud that he readily agreed to face off with Hayes . . . "One on One."

## **MICHAEL HAYES:**

Listen up, Luger, you deciding to feud with me is the biggest mistake you've ever made in your life. Your mouth is writing checks your butt can't cash, and that only spells trouble—and maybe the end of a career—where tangling with "P.S." Hayes is concerned.

## **LEX LUGER:**

Give it up, Hayes. You've got canvas burns on your back from all the times I've pinned you. The only reason this feud is still going on is because you just don't know when you're beaten. Let me tell you this, the day I lose to you is the day I retire.

**MH:** Then you better find a nail to hang those boots on, partner, because you *are* beaten. It's done, over, finished. You just haven't had the brains to give me your U.S. title belt yet, but that'll happen soon, don't worry. It's as good as mine.

**LL:** You gotta be watching different matches than I am, buddy. Right from the get go, I've had your number. In fact, I don't even know why I'm wasting my time with you, it's just that you're



# W ONE



*"Give it up, Hayes. You've got canvas burns all over your back from all the times I've pinned you."*

—Lex Luger

aching for a beating and I'm the man to put you in your place. Listen here, Hayes, the only time you were anything was when you had your Freebird buddies around to fight your battles. Don't think I don't know about you. When Gordy and Roberts show up, maybe then I'll start to worry, but Michael Hayes by himself is like a turkey on a fence at Thanksgiving. As good as cooked.

**MH:** Funny words, Luger. Total package? More like total idiot, if you ask me. I kicked your butt in Philly, I kicked it in Atlanta, and I'll kick it again next time I see you. Maybe all that butt-kickin' is scramblin' your brain, because you don't even know enough to know when you're on the downside of a feud. You wanna walk

down Badstreet? Fine, pal, I'll give you a guided tour you'll never forget.

**LL:** You're forgetting, Hayes, that when it came down to one-on-one in New Haven, I was doing the butt-kicking, and even all those other times when you had the Windhams helping you out, you couldn't do a thing to me. I'm not afraid to walk down Badstreet, because Badstreet don't exist and it never did. It's just a figment of your alcohol-crazed imagination. Why don't you go and party, Hayes, although I don't know what you have to celebrate.

**MH:** I'll be celebrating a U.S. title victory soon enough, Luger, believe it. The only bigger mistake you can make besides feuding with me is underestimating me. You've

made both, pal, and you'll regret 'em.

**LL:** Listen, Hayes, this conversation's going nowhere. *You've* made the big mistake, Hayes. I was willing to just humiliate you in the ring and let it go at that, but now I'm gonna have to put an end to your crap. By the time I'm done with you, they're gonna have to wire your jaws and piece your body back together. You've made your bed, Hayes, now sleep in it. Sweet dreams.

**MH:** Sweet dreams for me, nightmares for you. Like the nightmare of seeing the U.S. belt around my waist. Or maybe the nightmare of getting your leg or arm broken by me. Or how about this nightmare: so much blood running down your face that the Baltimore match with Ric Flair will seem like a picnic. You talk a good game, Luger, but I know better. The fans know better. You're scared. It's obvious.

**LL:** What's obvious, Hayes? That I'm twice the man you are? That I've achieved more in five years than you've done in 10? That I'm the U.S. champion and you're nothing? Go back down Badstreet with all the bums and winos, Hayes, that's where you belong.

**MH:** Any bum or wino I've ever seen has twice the class you ever will, loser. That's you, brother, Lex Loser. Get used to it, because that's precisely where your career is headed.

**LL:** Think what you want Hayes, you and Windham and Hiro Matsuda. Just think, Hayes, four years ago, Matsuda trained me; that means you're four years behind me, and you've been around longer. It's sad to see someone like you, someone who finally seemed to have a handle on things, totally losing control, but I guess you can't teach an old dog new tricks. Well, the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain, and I'm plain sick of you.

**MH:** No sicker than you're gonna feel after getting the snot kicked out of you, Luger. I'm gonna take that giant-sized ego and ram it right down your throat until you choke. It'll be the sweetest sound ever. □

# A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONES"

## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)



The year-end issues of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* are always the most anticipated wrestling magazines of the year. And the 1986, 1987, and 1988 issues made publishing history. Each issue is a full 100 pages packed with color and the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect. We have limited supplies of these newsstand sell-outs, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copies today. Only \$5.00 each.

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Hulk Hogan dumps Tully Blanchard over the ropes at the Royal Rumble. Reader Nancy Sodano, who thinks Hogan has been a tremendous champion, criticizes Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum for constantly putting down Hogan in his column.

I thought I was witnessing a long-overdue turnaround. Was I ever wrong!

Mr. Rosenbaum wrote about the Royal Rumble and how it was one of the best events of the year. Rosenbaum spoke mostly of Hogan and his participation in the Rumble itself. He used phrases like "... he [Hogan] turned in one of the greatest athletic performances I've ever seen" and "last year, I said that the Royal Rumble didn't miss Hogan. I was obviously very wrong."

Were my eyes deceiving me? Was Hogan finally getting complimented instead of the usual putdown? At last, an article that gave Hogan the credit he so greatly deserves!

Unfortunately, I finished reading "Behind The Dressing Room Door" and realized, to my dismay, that all good things don't last. As Mr. Rosenbaum patted Hulk Hogan on the back throughout the story, he gave Hogan a kick in the behind at the end. The last paragraph was simply one sentence: "Now if Hogan would shut up and learn a few wrestling moves, who knows—he might actually turn out to be a worthy champion one day."

Hogan *might* be a worthy champion some day? Granted, he's not scientific, but he remained champion by his brawling style and it worked for him. It's like saying, "Why wrestle a man for 30 minutes when you can beat him in 10?" Hogan *was* a worthy champion, and will be a worthy champion once again, no matter what his wrestling style is. Not every wrestler has to be a technician instead of a brawler. Mr. Rosenbaum just had to say something sour about the "Hulkster." It looks as though that long-awaited turnaround I mentioned is still a dream.

NANCY SODANO  
Boston

### BROCK GONE MAD?

Well, Matt Brock has finally gone mad. All those double scotches and deadlines finally got to his head. I never thought I'd see the day that this old geezer actually approved of matches between Japanese, Americans, and Russians, but that's exactly what he did in his column in your July 1989 issue ("Matt Brock's Plain Speaking").

(Continued on page 50)



# THIS MONTH IN...



## THE Wrestler

\*\*\* **SPECIAL ISSUE!** \*\*\*  
**SUPERCARD SUNDAY**



**BONUS FULL-COLOR SECTION!** All the highlights of WrestleMania V and Clash of the Champions VI!



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\$HAM! The fans will never buy **TED DiBIASE'S** million-dollar belt! . . . NWA stars agree: **THE GREAT MUTA** is awesome! . . . **KERRY VON ERICH'S** message to **ERIC EMBRY**: "Don't ever betray your fans!" . . . "Q & A" interview with **TEDDY LONG**

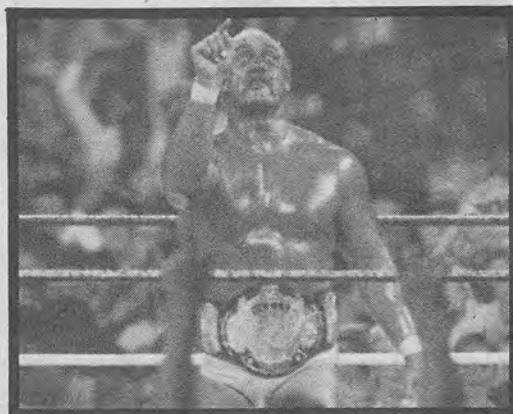
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**RICK STEAMBOAT vs. RIC FLAIR:** To hell and back!



Hulkamania reborn! **HULK HOGAN** regains the WWF World title!

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**THE BEST KEEPS GETTING BETTER—  
BECAUSE YOU WON'T SETTLE FOR LESS!**

**SINCERELY YOURS**

*(Continued from page 48)*

For him to call this an "interesting chapter in wrestling history" is like Ed-die Ellner calling Hulk Hogan one of the greatest wrestlers ever. I always thought Matt hated Japanese and Russians and would never approve of them getting together with Americans. I was expecting Matt to say, "Now let's hope the Russians and Japs kick the stuffings out of each other," but it looks like he's really interested in seeing good sport.

I'm really hoping somebody televises this series over here because it's a landmark event in wrestling history. At least we readers of *Inside Wrestling* know that an unbiased reporter like Brock will be covering the proceedings.

HOWARD JARVIS

Tucson, AZ

### **MORE ON LAWLER**

After all this time, Jerry Lawler and Larry Zbyszko are still going at it ("One On One," June 1989)? To me, the situation is very clear: Lawler is a former AWA World champion, Zbyszko is the World champion.

I find Lawler's bellyaching to be very unprofessional, especially for a man who's been wrestling so long.



Larry Zbyszko has been a great AWA World champion and Jerry Lawler should stop whining about not getting a shot at him, writes Peter Wilson.

You'd think by now Lawler would know something about sportsmanship, but that's not the case. He still cheats, he still uses closed-fist punches and throws fire, and he still refuses to admit when he's wrong. Zbyszko may not be a great wrestler, but you hardly ever hear him complaining, even when he was Western States champion in the NWA and never got any attention.

I agree that the way Zbyszko won the title was questionable; titles should never be decided in battle royals. But Lawler deserved to be stripped of the title and he certainly has no gripe with Zbyszko. After all, Zbyszko didn't beat Lawler for the belt, because Lawler was banned from the tournament.

What we have here is a clear-cut case of sour grapes.

PETER WILSON

St. Paul, MN □

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**January 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

**February 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

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**July 1983/COLOR PINUP:** Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

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**October 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

**April 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

**June 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

**July 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

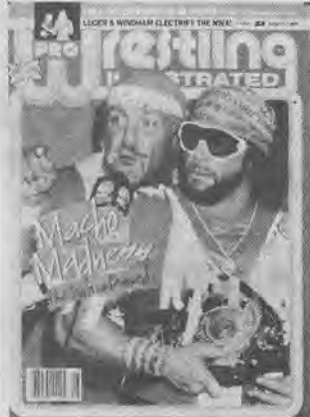
**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**November 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

**December 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

**January 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.



AUGUST 1988

**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**April 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair, Wendy Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

**May 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

**July 1986/COLOR PINUP:** King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Luger vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

**October 1986/COLOR PINUP:** John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

**December 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

**April 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

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**October 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

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**February 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

**April 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

**July 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

**August 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

**October 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

**November 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

**December 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

**January 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

**February 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

**April 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

**May 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Missy Hyatt, Hogan, Ultimate, Kerry, Luger, Steamboat, 10 stars in limbo.

**June 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

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## RICK STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 33)

You won't find Ron Simmons or Jack Victory anywhere in *Inside Wrestling's* NWA top 15 in last issue's ratings, but on April 4, Steamboat wrestled Victory in West Palm Beach, Florida; that same day, he also defended his belt against NWA TV

champ Mike Rotundo. Eight days later, he put his title on the line against the talented—but unranked—Ron Simmons.

At press time, Steamboat had signed for a match against Danny Spivey, another non-contender who only recently arrived in the NWA. Spivey, in fact, has spent most of his career wrestling in tag teams. He is an NWA World title contender only when one stretches the imagination.

So why is he wrestling Steamboat?

But that's not all. In addition to his numerous matches against Flair—another one was just a week away at press time—Steamboat recently went on a tour of Japan to defend his belt against some of the greatest technical wrestlers in the world. Certainly, Steamboat must be commended for scheduling so many title defenses against so many contenders, but is he overloading himself? Is he leaving himself too open to error?

"I'm surprised that anybody would say that," Steamboat responded. "Listen, I remember the Honky Tonk

match, and you can say what you want about 'any given day,' but Honky Tonk won illegally, so there was nothing for me to learn from it. I agree, fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me, but I haven't been fooled. Besides, I wouldn't exactly call Victory, Simmons, and Spivey pushovers."

That's certainly true, but they're not contenders, either. There is a certain risk involved in wrestling such men, all of whom have nothing to lose. In professional team sports, for example, it is not unusual for a superior team to dominate other good teams, while often losing to vastly inferior clubs. The NBA's New York Knicks, for instance, have lost twice during this past regular season to the lowly Charlotte Hornets, but defeated the Detroit Pistons—the league's top team—four times.

The risk is clear. When a wrestler has nothing to lose, he goes into a match looser and more willing to try new moves that could trick up the champion. Steamboat, meanwhile, enters these matches in double jeopardy: the chance of losing the title, compounded by the embarrassment of losing to a supposedly inferior opponent. Having beaten Flair so many times, what does Steamboat have to gain by beating Jack Victory?

"Besides the fact that these guys are good wrestlers and deserving of a title shot, they keep me fresh for when I have to wrestle Flair, or for that inevitable time down the line when I look across the ring and see Barry Windham standing there," Steamboat said. "There's nothing worse than just sitting around waiting for your next big match. That could cost, too. Look what happened to Ronnie Garvin."

Indeed, Garvin won the NWA title from Flair on September 25, 1987, then sat on the sidelines for two months before losing the title back to Flair at Starrcade '87. Garvin used that time to train, but by the time of the rematch, he had developed a fresh coat of ring rust.



Steamboat beckons Flair to get off the mat (above). Spivey whips "The Dragon" across the ring (below). Steamboat says he'll face as many challengers as possible to prove his worth as the World champion.







Steamboat executes a sunset flip on Rotundo. Although Rotundo wrestles primarily in tag teams, Steamboat granted him a title shot. "The Dragon's" generosity may cost him the belt.

Steamboat, however, has gone to the other extreme. This is clearly a case of too many contenders, too little time. Even worse, they're the *wrong* contenders, dangerous men who can inflict serious injury on Steamboat, even if they don't beat him. Victory, Simmons, and Rotundo are ferocious men who stick out their claws when opportunity knocks.

"The thing with Ricky is that this title is so important to him and he wants to prove to everyone he's a better champion than Flair," Eddie Gilbert said. "Of course, Flair stayed fresh by wrestling in non-title and tag team matches, where he had nothing to lose. That's smart. I don't know what Rick's doing, but I just hope it doesn't cost him."

And yet, it could ... and has. Steamboat should never forget what happened on June 2, 1987. As yet another saying goes:

"Those who ignore the lessons of history are condemned to repeat them." ☐

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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

right on target. Wanz had checked in the night before.

I called his room and realized we had another communications gap. Wanz comes from Graz, Austria, a town south of Vienna and close to the Hungarian border, and is fluent in German and Hungarian. He spoke English, but not very well, and was suspicious when I said I was a reporter and wanted to speak with him. Only when I mentioned *Inside Wrestling* and Bill Apter did he invite us up.

"Welcome, Mr. Rosenbaum," he said, his English starting to pick up a bit. "It is very nice to see man from America so far from home. Far from home for you, of course. For me, it is right next door."

We sat down and spoke. At 46, Wanz still looks the same as he did in 1982 in St. Paul, Minnesota, when he came from across the Atlantic and defeated Nick Bockwinkel to win the World title. The match is still considered one of the greatest upsets in AWA history, although Wanz was an experienced European champion who had every right to a match against Bockwinkel.

"That is something some people, even Bockwinkel, still refuse to acknowledge, and it is one of the reasons I rarely wrestle in America anymore," Wanz said. "When I lost the title a month later, everybody said, 'There, it is a fluke that this man won the title,' but you ask the people in Budapest if I am a worthy champion."

I told him that I'd love to, except I couldn't communicate with the citizens of Budapest. I took Wanz' word for it that he's extremely popular in Budapest.

"That is very unusual, too," he said, "because Hungarians do not like the Austrians. They envy us because we are so close to them,



Otto Wanz (above left) was the AWA World champion in 1982, but most American fans have forgotten him. Wanz hasn't been forgotten in Hungary, however, where he is a main-event star (above right). While vacationing in Hungary, Dave Rosenbaum interviewed Wanz. The former World champ had some interesting insights.



but we have many more freedoms. Also, they associate us with the Germans and World War II. You know, most of this city was destroyed by the Nazis.

"Look out at those bridges," he continued, pointing out of his window to the eight pedestrian and auto bridges that cross the Danube River. "The Hungarians were once very proud of their bridges, they were very old and very beautiful, but when the Germans retreated from Budapest, Hitler ordered his army to blow all of them up, for no reason at all! So they have every right to hate the Austrians. I am proud that they have accepted me."

Wanz has been in the sport for more than 20 years. He has wrestled in every corner of the globe and always surprises fans—and opponents—with his speed and agility. Wanz, after all, is rather rotund at 6'3", 330 pounds, and, with his milk-white complexion, he is something less than intimidating.

"I believe that is why they like

me here," Wanz said. "I am the underdog, I do not look like an athlete. But I have succeeded, and this is a country of underdogs. They have always had difficulties. Just think, they went from being conquered by the Nazis to being conquered by the Russians. I believe I give these people some hope."

He invited me to see him wrestle that evening ("It is usually only 50 forints (\$1) for ringside, but for me, they charge 800 forints!"), but the last train back to Vienna was at 6:05, and hotel reservations in Budapest were impossible that week. Besides, staying in Budapest is *not* an inviting idea.

So we said 'goodbye' and returned to the train station. As I looked around at the dirt and grime, people hanging out of trains, gypsies all over, and natives trying to exchange money illegally, I realized how much these people need some hope. They look at Otto Wanz, remember what he did in 1982, and think anything is possible. □





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# HULKAMANIA

(Continued from page 35)

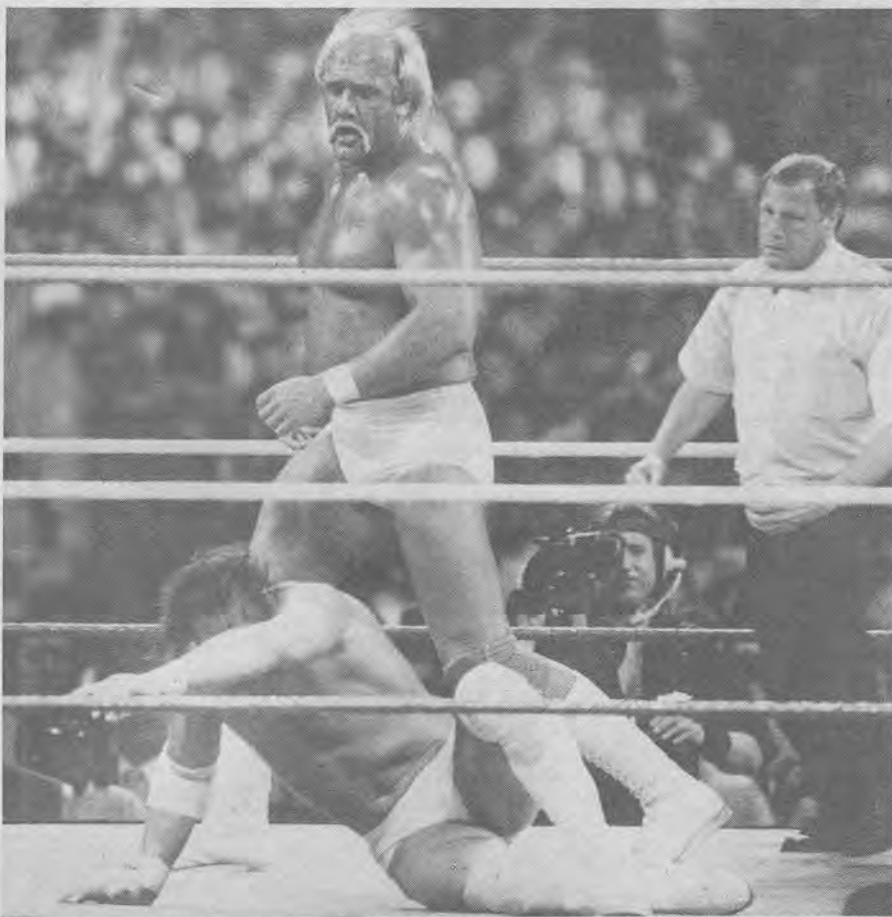
Hulkamania, a war that has exploded once again with Savage's recent hiring of Sherri Martel as his new manager. Apparently, the WrestleMania V showdown wasn't the last we've seen of these two brawling behemoths in blood-soaked battle. And as the following sampling of your comments shows, you'll be right there, cheering *both* men on!

"Hulkamania rules!" wrote Mike Facciani of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "The showdown between Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage at WrestleMania V proved once and for all that Hulkamania rules over Macho Madness. The 'Macho Man' threw everything but the kitchen sink at the 'Hulkster,' and still could not put him away. I have never before seen anyone get up after Savage's dreaded elbowdrop, let alone go on to win the match.

Hulkamania is once again the dominant force in wrestling, and Macho Madness can't even compare. The WWF World heavyweight belt is back around the waist of the 'Hulkster' where it belongs, and it's going to stay there for a long time to come!"

"Hulkamania rules!" wrote Andrew Meyer of Omaha, Nebraska. "Since I didn't get my magazine until after WrestleMania V, it's *obvious* that Hulkamania rules. I used to be one of Savage's biggest fans, but not anymore. He has turned everything around so much it's not even funny. Hogan's only interest in Elizabeth was purely professional. He's a married man and I'm sure he's not one to cheat on his wife. Hogan deserves the WWF title, and he'll keep it for a very long time. Hulkamania rules forever!"

"Hulkamania rules!" responded Greg Evans of Marshfield, Missouri. "He's the greatest wrestler of all time! He gets crowds fired up like no one else can. He has the heart, guts, intestinal fortitude, and the unique ability to reach down for that something extra to win a match. This makes Hulk unbeatable. I love the man. Not like Brother Love would say. I mean I truly *admire* him. It was one of the most exciting moments in wres-



At WrestleMania V, Hogan gets ready to pounce on the "Macho Man" as soon as he gets off the mat (above). The "Hulkster" stops Savage's kick (top right).



ting history when Hulk won the title at WrestleMania V. In my opinion, he never lost the belt on February 5, 1988, on *The Main Event*. I still respect the 'Macho Man' as a wrestler—his scientific skills and aerial attack make him one of the best in the sport—but ... Hulk rules!"

"Hulkamania rules!" wrote James May of Walden, New York. "Now I believe no man can beat Hulk fair and square. He clearly beat 'Macho' at WrestleMania V, and didn't even hook the leg to do it!"

"Hulkamania rules!" responded John Matthews of Milwaukee. "But Hulk should've let doctors take care of Elizabeth and stayed with





Hulk scores the WrestleMania V pin. The celebration that ensued confirmed that Hulkamania is still a potent force in wrestling.

Randy [in Milwaukee]. If she were a male manager, he wouldn't have cared so much."

The responses of the Machomaniacs, while fewer in number, were no less enthusiastic:

"Macho Madness rules!" wrote Michael D'Aversa of Waterbury, Connecticut. "Because Savage is a much better wrestler than the 'Hulkster.'"

"Macho Madness rules!" responded Darren Power of Plantation, Florida. "Rid the sport of Hogan! He's boring."

"Macho Madness rules!" wrote Roger Daniels of Detroit. "He's the greatest wrestler in the world, and Hogan was lucky to win at WrestleMania V. If Elizabeth didn't get in the way, Hogan would be dead right now. Hulk Hogan is an ego-maniac. All Savage cares about is wrestling, and that's the way I like it."

Yet, while Savage and his fans lick their wounds, Hulkamania is taking over the country like never before! With Hogan's new movie *No Holds Barred* due out shortly, there figures to be even more Hulkamania than ever before.

Isn't it amazing? Five years after it was born in Madison Square Garden, Hulkamania is stronger than it's ever been. Hulkamania rules! ☐

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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)



A snakeskin belt made from Jake Roberts' pet, Damien, would be one of the prizes Ellner gave away if he were running the *PWI* contest.

tained for the *PWI* 10th anniversary giveaway:

The left ear of Yukon Eric, kneedropped off by all-time wrestling sadist Killer Kowalski; the report cards from the year Robert Gibson and Rick Morton repeated fifth grade; the part of the dress Elizabeth took off at SummerSlam 88; the rest of Hulk Hogan's hair; Ric Flair's little black book; Roddy Piper's residuals from *They Live*; The Great Muta's future; a snakeskin belt made from Jake Roberts' pet, Damien; the little speck

that's remaining of Bill Apter's journalistic integrity; and, finally, an authentic autographed British Bulldog—that's Matilda I'm talking about, not Dynamite Kid or Davey Boy Smith.

I ask you, dear readers, from which list would you rather choose?

Over at *Wrestling Superstars*, the Summer 1989 issue featured the biannual poll grading the 20 top wrestlers of today. Understand, dear readers, that this was yet another feature into which I

had no input.

Ric Flair replaced 1987 winner Bruiser Brody, who was tragically unable to defend his title. Flair was followed closely by Randy Savage, Rick Steamboat, Ted DiBiase, and Sting. Rounding out the top 10 was Barry Windham, Eddie Gilbert, Rick Steiner, Curt Hennig, and Steve Williams. Hulk Hogan finished 14th, tied with Terry Gordy and Jerry Lawler. Eric Embry finished 19th. Stan Hansen, Hawk, Animal, and Owen Hart did not make the cut. Dusty Rhodes finished 20th.

Faithful readers know the high esteem I have for Mr. Rhodes. Putting my feelings aside for the moment, I must wonder aloud (or at least in print) about the fairness of the *Superstars* survey. Dusty scored two perfect 10s: in the categories of "ability to absorb punishment" and "experience." The editors could have saved space and combined them into one category: "the most experience at absorbing punishment."

As recently as five years ago, Dusty Rhodes deserved mention among the top 20 wrestlers in the world. Today, the man is an embarrassment, a member of the Andre The Giant Idiot's Club For Sideshow Freaks. I've heard the arguments. He moves well for a big man. For a big man, he can still get off the mat. He's very powerful. Replace "big" with "obese and sluggish," and you will have a clearer portrait of the Dusty Rhodes wrestling today.

There must be 200 wrestlers who would score higher if Dusty's numbers were realistic. But until they replace Bill Apter with me on the ratings committee, our family will continue to forsake youth, speed, and promise in favor of balding, overweight dinosaurs who can barely remember where the rings are. □



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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.  
 February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.  
 May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.  
 October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.  
 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.  
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.  
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.  
 November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.  
 December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.  
 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.  
 April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.  
 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.  
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.  
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.  
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.  
 October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.  
 November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.  
 December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.  
 January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.  
 February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.  
 March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.  
 April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.  
 May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.  
 June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.  
 July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.  
 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.  
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.  
 January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.  
 February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.  
 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.  
 April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.  
 May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!  
 June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.  
 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.  
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.  
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.  
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.  
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!  
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.  
 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, *Pro Wrestling USA*, Valentine.  
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.  
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.  
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.  
 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.  
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.  
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.  
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.  
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.  
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.  
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.  
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.  
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.  
 March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.  
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.  
 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.  
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.  
 July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.  
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.  
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.  
 October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.  
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.  
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.  
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.  
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Luger, 1987 Datebook.  
 March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade '86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.  
 April 1987/1986 in Pictures, Kevin Von Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.  
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.  
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.  
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.  
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.  
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.  
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.  
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.  
 December 1987/Grappling Ghoulis, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.  
 February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.  
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.  
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.  
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.  
 June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.  
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.  
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.  
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1988, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.  
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.  
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.  
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.  
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.  
 February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.  
 April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.  
 May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.  
 June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.  
 July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embry.

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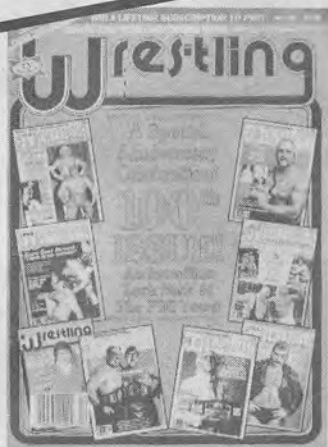
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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

ing upon his natural gifts. After being reassigned, I bumped into Rude only on rare occasions.

"Howzit going, Lizbet?" he'd cackle upon seeing me. "Ready for the 'Ravishing One' yet?" We both knew it was a put-on. Rude's stock was rising higher than ever. When he entered the WWF, I sent him a telegram of congratulations; he never replied. It wasn't like him to ignore an old friend. I tried calling him. I left word at hotel rooms around the WWF circuit. Still no reply.

After his victory at WrestleMania V (dubiously earned, but such is professional wrestling), I attempted to get back into his dressing room. The guards wouldn't permit me access. I

begged them to take a note to Rude. Surely he would rush out to greet me if he knew I was standing outside. One guard, sympathetic to my plight (and a few well-timed tears), agreed to bring Rude my note. Five minutes passed, then 10, and 15. Finally the guard returned. "Sorry, ma'am," he said.

Right there, in the turmoil of the arena, I flashed back to a moment outside a different arena a few years back. Rude had just taken a beating courtesy of Kevin and Kerry Von Erich and was sulking in a dressing room deep inside Reunion Arena. I was standing in the hallway when Rude "requested" my presence.

"This is a bunch of crap!"

Rick Steamboat and Ric Flair lock up. Hunter agrees with Flair that he'll quickly bounce back from his NWA title loss to "The Dragon."





Rude cried, pressing an icepack to his battered left eye. "You know I could be making 300-grand modeling clothes in Europe. Who needs this?"

"You're too physical to hang around modeling sets," I joked. "Either you'd ruin all the women or you'd pick a fight with the photographers. You may be handsome, but you were meant to wrestle, not pose."

We finished the conversation over coffee in a nearby diner. "You're okay, Liz," he said at the end, his career switch no longer as tempting. "You're out for the wrestlers, not just for the story. I won't forget it."

The guard jostled me from my trance. "Sorry, hon, but you have to move on."

In today's WWF, there is no room for sentiment—it just doesn't pay as well.

**NEWS ITEMS:** Ric Flair pins Rick Steamboat as Flair and Michael Hayes defeat Steamboat and Lex Luger in a spectacular tag team match.

Those critics who think Flair's championship days ended last February in Chicago should have been in Atlanta's Omni recently. The loss of his belt has clearly lit a fire under Flair.

I'm reminded of Ben Hogan's comment upon first watching Jack Nicklaus play golf: "He plays a game with which I'm not familiar," the legendary player said. That's how fans regard the Flair-Steamboat match series. Fans accustomed to boring, predictable mat action are hypnotized by these two warriors. Rather than retreating to his vast wealth, Flair has redoubled his training efforts.

"I won't rest till I have my belt back," he told a reporter recently. When Flair reaches this kind of fever pitch, there are very few people who can stop him. Rick Steamboat happens to be one of them. Stay tuned. □

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**SPRING 1987**



**FALL 1988**

**SPRING 1984/Color pinups:** Superstar-Bravo, Adrian Street, Hansen-Race, Valiant-Kabuki. **Stories include:** Warriors, Kerry Von Erich, Bockwinkel, Santana, Hansen.

**SUMMER 1984/Color pinups:** Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. **Stories include:** Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Orndorff.

**FALL 1984/Color pinups:** Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. **Stories include:** Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

**WINTER 1984/Color pinups:** Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. **Stories include:** Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

**SPRING 1985/Color pinups:** Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

**SUMMER 1985/Color pinups:** Kerry-Flair, Hawk-Lawler, Funk-Slater, Nikita-Rhodes. **Stories include:** Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita.

**FALL 1985/Color pinups:** Adams-Kevin Von Erich, Zbyszko-Backlund, Lawler-Brody, Blanchard-T.A. **Stories include:** Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds.

**WINTER 1985/Color pinups:** Flair-Kevin Von Erich, Hayes-Hawk, Hogan-Fujinami, DiBiase-Roberts. **Stories include:** Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan.

**SPRING 1986/Color pinups:** Windham-Sullivan, Andre-Bundy, Taylor-Landell, Hernandez-Kerry. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Warriors, Hogan, Santana, Rude, Williams.

**SUMMER 1986/Color pinups:** Luger-Barr, Garvin-Flair, Nord-Hawk, Missy-Sunshine. **Stories include:** Warriors-Russians, Savage-Hogan, Kevin Von Erich, Bulldogs.

**FALL 1986/Color pinups:** Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. **Stories include:** R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

**WINTER 1986/Color pinups:** Rude-Von Erich, Khru-shev-Mantel, Hogan-Adonis, Bockwinkel-DeBeers. **Stories include:** Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich.

**SPRING 1987/Color pinups:** Steamboat-Zulu, Roberts-Hillbilly, Morton-Anderson, DiBiase-Hayes. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt.

**SUMMER 1987/Color pinups:** Roberts-Kamala, Von Erich-Perez, Morton-Koloff, Snuka-Zukhov. **Stories include:** Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich.

**FALL 1987/Color pinups:** Animal-Lane, Bigelow-Inoki, Sullivan-Hall, Ware-Honky Tonk. **Stories include:** Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre.

**WINTER 1987/Color pinups:** Tama-Santana, Perez-Steamboat, Rhodes-Flair, Gordy-Gilbert. **Stories include:** Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler.

**SPRING 1988/Color pinups:** Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMC-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. **Stories include:** Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

**SUMMER 1988/Color pinups:** Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

**FALL 1988/Color pinups:** Santana-Smash, Warlord-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. **Stories include:** Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

**WINTER 1988/Color pinups:** Kerry, Hayes, OMC, Sting, Luger, Idol, Ultimate, Brody. **Stories include:** Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain.

**SPRING 1989/Color pinups:** Slaughter, Sheik, Andre, Savage, Flair, Steiner, Madusa, Richter. **Stories include:** Savage, Bossman, Sting, Lawler, Hogan, Luger.

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# BIGELOW VS. RHODES

(Continued from page 37)



Humperdink tries to throw Dusty back into the ring (above). Dusty "makes a wish" on Bigelow (top right). Humperdink's ultimate target is Dusty.

willing to fight. The 6'3", 368-pound monster never backs down, especially when Humperdink tells him to forge ahead.

"Listen, me and Dusty were friends in the NWA, but that's past history," Bigelow said. "Dusty's got what he wants, now I want what I want, and that's money. Wherever I've gone, somebody's gotten in my way, and every time I knock 'em down, there's somebody else causing me trouble. Hump's in the driver's seat and I'm listening. I'll admit that I don't want to destroy Rhodes, I just have to."

Bigelow's insistence on following Humperdink's game plan could be a mistake. Both men have followed extremely unstable career paths over the past few years. Bam Bam has been in several federations as both a fan favorite and rulebreaker. His progress has been harmed by a refusal to stay put, establish himself in one area, and patiently wait for an opportunity.

Humperdink has been more stable, but how can one explain the changes he's undergone recently? From being one of the most hated men in the history of Florida,



Even in his weakened condition, Dusty makes Bigelow flinch. In the NWA, Dusty and Bam Bam had forged an alliance. But in Florida they fight, because that's the way Humperdink wants it. Bigelow doesn't want to offend his manager.

Humperdink went to the WWF, managed Bigelow, and became a model of decency. His behavior didn't change when he moved to the NWA, but he went back to his old ways upon arriving in the FCW.

"If you ask me, Humperdink's been having so much trouble, he doesn't know where to start,"

Dustin Rhodes said. "This guy's career has been plagued by failure, and my father was one of the main reasons why. So when he went to the NWA, he figured that instead of fighting my dad, he'd join him. That didn't work either, so now he's back to his old ways. Well, he's gonna be a failure



again. This bounty thing is an old trick of Humpertink's."

The young Dustin is certainly an astute wrestling historian. Humpertink has put prizes on the heads of several of his enemies over the years, including Dusty Rhodes. The \$100,000 bounty he placed on Jimmy Valiant back in 1983 is the largest in the sport's history. Most of the time, however, Humpertink fails to achieve his goal.

If that's the case this time, the effect on Bigelow's career could be devastating. He has failed to win a major title over the past two years; now Bigelow is risking a potentially valuable friendship with Dusty for a man who has done absolutely nothing but take his career backward. He is also going into battle with a man who is familiar with blood feuds and bounties.

"Bam Bam's just another in a long line of boys who've tried to bring down the 'Dream,' and he ain't gonna be the last," Rhodes said. "Everybody says they wanna destroy me, but nobody's been able to do it. As long as there's wrestling, there's gonna be Dusty Rhodes. I can't worry about a nobody like Bigelow."

But this "nobody" is an experienced bounty hunter who once took a bullet in his back. He has fearlessly taken on armed, dangerous criminals, men who have taken human life. And Bigelow is hungry. He knows that he's running out of chances. So when Bigelow says he must destroy Dusty, it isn't only because Humpertink says so. It's because his career says so.

"If I become the man that destroyed Dusty Rhodes, everybody's gonna know that I'm truly the most dangerous man in wrestling," Bigelow said. "When that happens, these promoters aren't gonna have any choice but to give me title shots. I'm ready to take charge."

But if he fails in his quest, is he ready to take the consequences? ☐

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>NWA World champion | 4— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>No. 2 contender: NWA title    | 8— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>WWF Intercontinental champion         | 12— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>CWA champion                  |
| 2— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>WWF World champion     | 5— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>No. 2 contender: WWF title | 9— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>No. 1 contender: WWF I-C title | 13— <b>DAVEY BOY SMITH</b><br>Stampede N. American cham  |
| 3— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>U.S. champion           | 6— <b>STING</b><br>NWA TV champion                   | 10— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>PWF champion                      | 14— <b>THE GREAT MUTA</b><br>No. 3 contender: U.S. title |
|  | 7— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>AWA World champion        | 11— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>World Class champion              | 15— <b>WENDELL COOLEY</b><br>CWF champion                |

## NWA

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>238, Honolulu, HI | 4— <b>STING</b><br>260, Venice Beach, CA      | 8— <b>THE IRON SHEIK</b><br>263, Teheran, Iran | 12— <b>DICK MURDOCH</b><br>280, Waxahachie, TX    |
| 2— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>268, Chicago, IL       | 5— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>255, Marietta, GA  | 9— <b>BUTCH REED</b><br>265, Kansas City, MO   | 13— <b>JACK VICTORY</b><br>230, Atlantic City, NJ |
| 3— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>243, Minneapolis, MN   | 6— <b>THE GREAT MUTA</b><br>245, Tokyo, Japan | 10— <b>BOB ORTON</b><br>245, Kansas City, KS   | 14— <b>RANDY ROSE</b><br>240, Nashville, TN       |
|   | 7— <b>RICK STEINER</b><br>248, Detroit, MI    | 11— <b>DANNY SPIVEY</b><br>300, Tampa, FL      | 15— <b>RANGER ROSS</b><br>225, Acworth, GA        |

## AWA

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>248, Pittsburgh, PA | 4— <b>WAHOO McDANIEL</b><br>280, Midland, TX        | 8— <b>DERRICK DUKES</b><br>232, Boston, MA    | 12— <b>TOMMY JAMMER</b><br>240, San Diego, CA  |
| 2— <b>GREG GAGNE</b><br>220, Robbinsdale, MN   | 5— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>310, Parris Island, SC  | 9— <b>BRAD RHEINGANS</b><br>248, Appleton, MN | 13— <b>WAYNE BLOOM</b><br>266, Minneapolis, MN |
| 3— <b>KEN PATERA</b><br>256, Portland, OR      | 6— <b>TOM ZENK</b><br>237, Minneapolis, MN          | 10— <b>MIKE GRAHAM</b><br>232, Tampa, FL      | 14— <b>AKIO SATO</b><br>238, Tokyo, Japan      |
|  | 7— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>248, Cape Town, S. Africa | 11— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>302, Austin, TX    | 15— <b>MIKE ENOS</b><br>252, Minneapolis, MN   |

## WWF

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>280, Queens, NY       | 8— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>280, Glens Falls, NY | 12— <b>JOHN STUDD</b><br>364, Los Angeles, CA       |
| 2— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>246, Robbinsdale, MN   | 5— <b>BRUTUS BEEFCAKE</b><br>273, San Francisco, CA | 9— <b>DINO BRAVO</b><br>246, Montreal, Quebec    | 13— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>497, Grenoble, France |
| 3— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>245, Sarasota, FL   | 6— <b>TED DIBIASE</b><br>247, Omaha, NE             | 10— <b>CURT HENNIG</b><br>235, Minneapolis, MN   | 14— <b>BAD NEWS BROWN</b><br>280, New York, NY      |
|   | 7— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>246, Stone Mountain, GA   | 11— <b>GREG VALENTINE</b><br>243, Seattle, WA    | 15— <b>JIMMY SNUKA</b><br>250, Fiji Islands         |

## MOST POPULAR

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>HULK HOGAN</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Popular       | 4— <b>LEX LUGER</b><br>Last month: No. 5 Most Popular        | 8— <b>HACKSAW DUGGAN</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Popular    | 12— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Popular  |
| 2— <b>STING</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Popular            | 5— <b>BRUTUS BEEFCAKE</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Popular | 9— <b>ERIC EMBRY</b><br>Last month: No. 14 Most Popular       | 13— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Popular |
| 3— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Popular | 6— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>Last month: No. 4 Most Popular   | 10— <b>DUSTY RHODES</b><br>Last month: No. 8 Most Popular     | 14— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>Last month: unrated             |
|  | 7— <b>RICK STEINER</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Popular     | 11— <b>KERRY VON ERICH</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Popular | 15— <b>SGT. SLAUGHTER</b><br>Last month: unrated           |

## MOST HATED

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| 1— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 4— <b>MICHAEL HAYES</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Hated   | 8— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>Last month: unrated            | 12— <b>THE GREAT MUTA</b><br>Last month: unrated            |
| 2— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Hated    | 5— <b>BIG BOSSMAN</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Hated     | 9— <b>KEVIN SULLIVAN</b><br>Last month: unrated         | 13— <b>BAM BAM BIGELOW</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Hated |
| 3— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Hated   | 6— <b>ANDRE THE GIANT</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Hated | 10— <b>TED DIBIASE</b><br>Last month: No. 11 Most Hated | 14— <b>KING HAKU</b><br>Last month: unrated                 |
|  | 7— <b>LARRY ZBYSZKO</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Hated   | 11— <b>COL. DeBEERS</b><br>Last month: unrated          | 15— <b>TOM PRICHARD</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Hated    |

## TAG TEAMS

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1— <b>DEMOLITION</b><br>WWF World tag team champions                        | 6— <b>AKEEM &amp; BIG BOSSMAN</b><br>No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title            | 11— <b>JACQUES &amp; RAYMOND ROUGEAU</b><br>No. 5 contenders: WWF tag team title |
| 2— <b>THE ROAD WARRIORS</b><br>No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title         | 7— <b>TULLY BLANCHARD &amp; ARN ANDERSON</b><br>No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title | 12— <b>TRACY SMOTHERS &amp; JOHN PAUL</b><br>CWA tag team champions              |
| 3— <b>MIKE ROTUNDO &amp; STEVE WILLIAMS</b><br>NWA World tag team champions | 8— <b>KEN PATERA &amp; BRAD RHEINGANS</b><br>AWA World tag team champions            | 13— <b>KERRY VON ERICH &amp; JEFF JARRETT</b><br>World Class tag team champions  |
| 4— <b>RICK STEINER &amp; EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>U.S. tag team champions       | 9— <b>THE BUSHWHACKERS</b><br>No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title                   | 14— <b>JOHNNY &amp; DAVEY RICH</b><br>CWF tag team champions                     |
| 5— <b>THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM</b><br>No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title      | 10— <b>THE ROCKERS</b><br>No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title                       | 15— <b>BOBBY JAGGERS &amp; BLACK BART</b><br>FCW tag team champions              |



These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended April 25, 1989

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION:

**CHAVO GUERRERO**

(September 23, 1988; from Jack Armstrong; Lancaster, CA)

## ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO**

(September 24, 1988; from The Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**TOSHIKI KAWADA & SAMPSON FUYUKI**

(September 15, 1988; from Shinichi Nakano & Shunji Kakano; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**STAN HANSEN & TERRY GORDY**

(December 16, 1988; tournament final over Genichiro Tenryu & Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHINICHI NAKANO

(April 16, 1989; from Masa Fuchi; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 18, 1989; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: LIONESS ASUKA

(January 29, 1989; over Chigusa Nagayo; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**LIONESS ASUKA & CHIGUSA NAGAYO**

(March 4, 1989; from Mika Komatsu & Yumi Ogura; Tokyo, Japan)

## AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)

## AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

## AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEN PATERA & BRAD RHEINGANS

(March 25, 1989; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

## AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: CHRIS BENOIT

(January 13, 1989; from Johnny Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

## \* CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY

(April 7, 1989; from Tom Prichard; Knoxville, TN)

## CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHNNY & DAVEY RICH

(February 17, 1989; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)

## CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN DAVIS

(November 2, 1988; from Ken Wayne; Hartman, TN)

## CWA CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(March 11, 1989; from Dutch Mantel; Memphis, TN)

## CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TRACY SMOTHERS & JOHN PAUL

(February 13, 1989; tournament final over Robert Fuller & Perry Jackson; Memphis, TN)

## FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(March 11, 1989; from Mike Graham; Tampa, FL)

## FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:

**JIM BACKLUND**

(December 10, 1988; from Tyree Pride; Tampa, FL)

## FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**BLACK BART & BOBBY JAGGERS**

(March 28, 1989; from The Nasty Boys; Tampa, FL)

## ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

## ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PHIL APOLLO & ERIC SBRACCHIA

(March 5, 1989; from Vic Steamboat & Joe Savoldi; Augusta, ME)

## IWGP CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Tatsumi Fujinami)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**SUPER STRONG MACHINE & GEORGE TAKANO**

(March 16, 1989; from Masa Saito & Riki Choshu; Yokohama, Japan)

## IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO HASE

(March 16, 1989; from Shiro Koshinaka; Yokohama, Japan)

## NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**THE ROAD WARRIORS & GENICHIRO TENRYU**

(December 7, 1988; via Animal's victory over Dusty Rhodes; Chattanooga, TN)

## NWA TV CHAMPION: STING

(March 31, 1989; from Mike Rotundo; Atlanta, GA)

## NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RICK STEAMBOAT

(February 20, 1989; from Ric Flair; Chicago, IL)

## \* NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**STEVE WILLIAMS & MIKE ROTUNDO**

(April 2, 1989; from The Road Warriors; New Orleans, LA)

## \* PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER

(April 15, 1989; from Carl Styles; Portland, OR)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Buddy Rose & Col. DeBeers)

## PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES

(March 11, 1989; over Big Steel Man; Tampa, FL)

## \* PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 19, 1989; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo, Japan)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU**

(February 2, 1988; from Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy; Kansas City, KS)

## STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: DAVEY BOY SMITH

(March 24, 1989; from Don Muraco; Calgary, Alberta)

## \* STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**CHRIS BENOIT & BEEF WELLINGTON**

(April 8, 1989; from Mahkan & Vulkhan Singh; Edmonton, Alberta)

## U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(February 20, 1989; from Barry Windham; Chicago, IL)

## U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EDDIE GILBERT & RICK STEINER

(February 28, 1989; from Kevin Sullivan & Steve Williams; Columbia, SC)

## WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)

## WORLD CLASS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Eric Embry)

## WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BEAUTY & THE BEAST

(March 3, 1989; tournament final over Chris Adams & Jeff Jarrett; Dallas, TX)

## WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**JEFF JARRETT & KERRY VON ERICH**

(March 12, 1989; from Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden; Dallas, TX)

## \* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(April 12, 1989; from Gary Young; Dallas, TX)

## WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: TNT

(March 4, 1989; from Jason The Terrible; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD & BART BATTEN

(April 2, 1989; from Mr. Sazuki-San & Mr. Pogo; Dorado, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNATHAN HOLLIDAY

(April 6, 1989; from Ricky Santana; Aguadilla, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(April 15, 1989; from Abdullah the Butcher; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: ABUGHDADIEN

(March 4, 1989; tournament final over TNT; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: INVADER I & CARLOS COLON

(April 8, 1989; forfeit over Jason the Terrible & Steve Strong; Carolina, Puerto Rico)

## WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(December 18, 1988; from Ronnie Garvin; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

## \* WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(April 2, 1989; from Ultimate Warrior; Atlantic City, NJ)

## \* WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

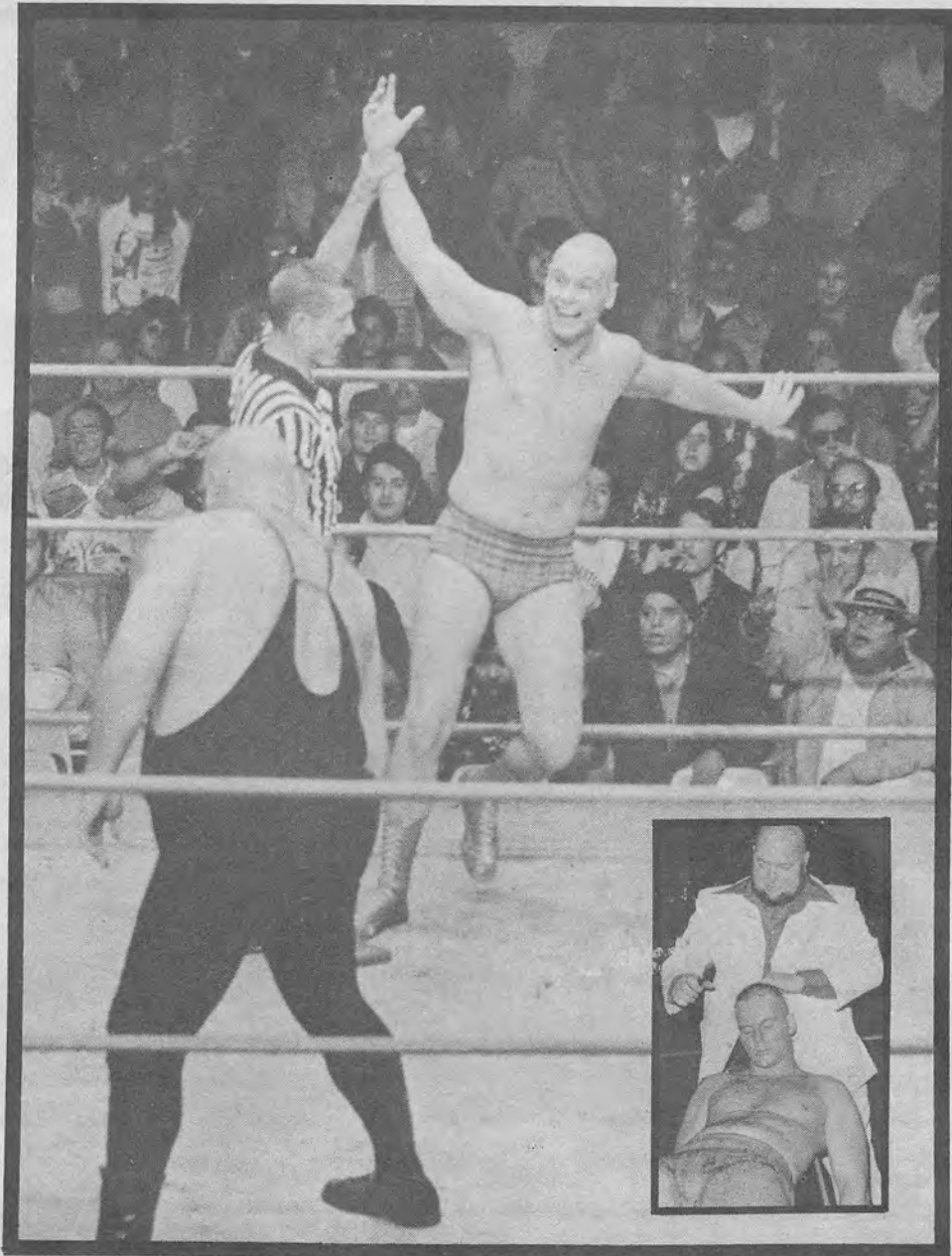
(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

## WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

# ***Blast From The Past*** ***This Month In Wrestling History***

**“Hair Today, Revenge Tomorrow”**



## **RODDY PIPER WINS OLYMPIC BATTLE ROYAL** **June 1976**

Roddy Piper suffered one of his most humiliating experiences back in 1976, but the “Rowdy Scot” bounced back to get the last laugh. Piper, then one of the most hated men in the sport, took on popular Chavo Guerrero in a hair vs. hair match in May 1976 at Los Angeles’ famed Olympic Auditorium. Piper ended up bald when Guerrero’s second, Butcher Vachon, took the clips to his pate (inset). One month later, Piper had reason to smile. He won the annual Olympic battle royal by pinning the 300-pound Vachon. He not only gained sweet revenge, but one of the biggest victories of his promising career.



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